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# Fiji Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Surveillance Report

April 2020

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Lloyd's Register
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Fishery client	Fiji Fishing Industry Association MSC Group
Assessment Type	Second Surveillance



# Assessment Data Sheet

Fishery name	Fiji Albacore and Yellowfin Tuna longline	
Species and Stock	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i> (South Pacific albacore) and <i>Thunnus albacares</i> , (Western and Central Pacific yellowfin tuna)	
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## Glossary

CCM	WCPFC Commission Members, Cooperating Non-Members and Participating Territories are termed CCMs
CoC	Chain of Custody
CPUE	Catch per Unit Effort
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ETP	Endangered, Threatened and Protected
F	Fishing mortality
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
F <sub>MSY</sub>	Fishing mortality at MSY
FFIA	Fiji Fishing Industry Association
HCR	Harvest Control Rule
LRP	Limit Reference Point
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MoF	(Fiji) Ministry of Fisheries
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NPOA	National Plan of Action
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OFD	(Fiji MoF) Offshore Fisheries Division
PNA	Party to the Nauru Agreement
PRI	Point of Recruitment Impairment
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations
SB	Spawning Biomass
SC	Science Committee (of the WCPFC)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SKJ	Skipjack tuna
SPC	Pacific Community (formerly referred to as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
SPC-OFP	SPC Oceanic Fisheries Programme
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TRP	Target Reference Point
UoA	Unit of Assessment
UoC	Unit of Certification
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WCPFC-SC	WCPFC Scientific Committee
WCPO	Western Central Pacific Ocean
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## 1 Executive Summary

The Fiji albacore tuna longline fishery was initially certified in December 2012. The fishery was re-assessed with a scope extension to include yellowfin tuna and was re-certified in January 2018 with seven conditions. The assessment team was Jo Akroyd (Team Leader, Principle 3) and Kevin McLoughlin (Principle 1 and Principle 2). The initial assessment was conducted in accordance with the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 and the re-assessment MSC FCR 2.0. A scope extension for the addition of bigeye to the certificate is currently being undertaken.

This report outlines the findings of the 2<sup>nd</sup> surveillance audit. The audit team was Jo Akroyd (Team Leader) and Kevin McLoughlin. The site visit took place in Suva, Fiji from the 24th to 26th February 2020. The audit was carried out in accordance with the MSC Fisheries Certification Procedure v2.1 for procedure and Annex CB of the MSC CR v2 for scoring.

The surveillance reviewed updated information on Principle 1 and Principle 2 and found there was no reason for re-scoring of any performance indicators. In relation to Principle 3, Performance Indicator 3.2.2b was re-scored and the **condition closed**.

There has been progress on the South Pacific albacore and yellowfin harvest strategies and the client has met the requirements of the Client Action Plan for Year 2. The four Principle 1 conditions are found to be **on target**. However, WCPFC16 has indicated that the CMM 2014-06 harvest strategy workplan is itself a work in progress: "*The workplan was always intended to be a living document and has been updated annually to reflect actual progress as well as other needs and developments.*" (WCPFC16 2019, Attachment H). The workplan has undergone several revisions since its first iteration and was further revised at WCPFC16. The 2019 revised timeline of the workplan will not result in the requirements of the Principle 1 conditions being met by the 2021 hard deadline of the 2019 CAB Variation (see *Sections 4.2 and 1.1*).

Conditions are also in place for each of the two UoAs in relation to available information on bait used (PI 2.2.3). Fiji has introduced a requirement that all imported bait must have a Certificate of Origin and details of exports permits from exporting countries. Fiji Ministry of Fisheries provided a table of imports by country for 2019, the information being collated from the import permits. The majority of the bait is sourced from China (~5000 t) and Japan (~930 t) (see

**Table 9**). However, further information is required on the species caught, for example, approximately 90% of the bait is reported as "sardine bait". The condition milestones and client action plan required this information to be available for this audit. Because the information on species caught is not yet available, these two conditions are **behind target**.

The audit team confirms that this fishery continues to conform to the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing. Traceability in this fishery was reviewed and was found to be in line with the general terms stated at the time of certification.

The audit team recommends that this fishery should remain certified and that product remains eligible to enter further chains of custody.

## 2 Report Details

### 2.1 Surveillance information

Table 1. Surveillance Information

1	Fishery name
	Fiji albacore and yellowfin tuna longline
2	Surveillance level and type
	Level 6, On-site
3	Surveillance number
	2nd Surveillance <span style="float: right;">X</span>
4	Team leader
	<p><b>Jo Akroyd – Principle 3</b></p> <p>Jo is a Fisheries Management and Marine Ecosystem consultant with extensive international and Pacific experience. She has worked at senior levels in both the public and private sectors as a fisheries manager and marine policy expert. Jo was with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in New Zealand for 20 years. Starting as a fisheries scientist, she was promoted to senior chief fisheries scientist, then Assistant Director, Marine Research. She was awarded a Commemoration Medal in 1990 in recognition of her pioneering work in establishing New Zealand's fisheries quota management system. As well as carrying out general fisheries consultancy since 1994 she has undertaken all facets of MSC work as a lead assessor, expert team member and peer reviewer across a wide range of fisheries. Jo has completed the MSC v1.3, v2.0 and v2.1 training modules including for enhanced fisheries, Risk based framework and traceability. She is a member of the MSC's Peer Review College,</p> <p>MSC projects include Team Leader and Fisheries Management expert for New Zealand fisheries, (hoki, hake, ling, southern blue whiting, albacore and skipjack), Fiji (albacore and yellowfin), Japan (scallops, skipjack and yellowfin), China (scallops, flounder and snowcrab), Maldives (skipjack), Ross Sea (toothfish), West Papua (skipjack and yellowfin). She has conducted multi species pre assessments in Japan, China, Viet Nam and New Zealand and provided independent Peer review reports for tuna, scallops and prawn fisheries in various countries.</p> <p>Jo has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request</p>
5	Team members
	<p><b>Kevin McLoughlin – Principle 1 &amp; Principle 2</b></p> <p>Kevin McLoughlin is a specialist fisheries consultant based in Australia with more than 30 years' experience across a wide range of international and domestic fisheries science issues, with close links to government policy. He represented the Australian Government on many committees and groups such as fishery assessment groups, providing advice on a diverse range of fisheries and species (including tuna, shark, various finfish, scallop and prawn). Work in assessment groups involved assessment of target species, development of bycatch action plans and ecological risk assessments. Mr McLoughlin was responsible for the production of annual status reports for Australian government-managed fisheries for a number of years. Mr. McLoughlin was Australia's delegate on scientific issues at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and was Chair of the IOTC Working Party on Bycatch for several years. Mr McLoughlin was also a delegate at meetings of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.</p>

	<p>Mr McLoughlin has worked predominantly on Principle 1 aspects of MSC assessments but has also undertaken Principle 2 and 3 work, as well as peer review and surveillance audits for several fisheries. Kevin was a team member for the full assessment of the Fiji albacore longline fishery, the New Zealand Albacore Fishery, the New Zealand Skipjack Fishery, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin unassociated purse seine fishery, the Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Fishery, and Australia's blue grenadier fishery. He was also a member of teams assessing Australia's Northern Prawn Fishery, Western Australia's Exmouth Gulf and Shark Bay prawn trawl fisheries, and South Australia's Spencer Gulf prawn trawl fishery. He was a peer reviewer for the New Zealand albacore troll fishery and for the North and South Pacific American Albacore Fishing Association fisheries and has undertaken surveillance audits for a number of fisheries.</p> <p>Kevin has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request.</p>
6	Audit/review time and location
	Site visit 24 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Suva, Fiji
7	Assessment and review activities
	<p><i>During the audit the assessors carried out meetings with the client, the Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) and WWF and used available and up to date information to assess and review</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any changes to the fishery and its management including those to management systems, regulations and relevant personnel</i></li> <li>• <i>Any changes to the scientific base of information such as stock</i></li> <li>• <i>Progress against the outstanding conditions for this fishery</i></li> <li>• <i>Any developments or changes within the fishery that may impact on traceability and the ability to segregate MSC from non MSC products</i></li> <li>• <i>Any other significant changes in this fishery</i></li> </ul> <p><i>In addition to the above the team carried out a rescoring of Principle 3.2.2b</i></p>

### 3 Updated Fishery Background

The client group is the Fiji Fishing Industry Association (FFIA) MSC Group, currently representing 57 vessels. The certified areas are the Fiji exclusive economic zone (EEZ), territorial seas, archipelagic waters and the three (3) adjacent high seas to Fiji's EEZ. The longline vessels are all based out of Suva and hold either the Fiji EEZ licence or/and archipelagic water/territorial sea or/and high seas authorization

The Fiji national longline fleet structure for 2018 comprised 95 Fiji national vessels; of which 7 are chartered foreign flagged vessels (Table 2). The remaining 88 vessels are Fiji flagged and fished in Fiji's EEZ, other EEZs and high seas within the WCPO (Fiji 2019).

Table 2. Fiji national fleet structure, 2011 – 2017 (Fiji 2019)

Fiji national longline fleet structure 2014-2018					
Length (m)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<21m	9	10	9	9	13
21-30m	48	45	41	45	36
>31m	48	47	39	30	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>95</b>

#### Catch monitoring:

Catch estimates for all tuna and billfish species fished in the WCPFC statistical area are compiled annually by SPC based on reports provided by CCMs. The most recent report provides catches for the period 1960-2018.

The South Pacific albacore catch in 2018 (68,454 t), was a significant decline on the record catch in 2017 (93,290 t) (Figure 1). The decline is primarily due to lower catches in the longline fishery (from 90,627 t in 2017 to 65,410 t in 2018) (WCPFC-SC 2019b). It is suggested that this decline may be related in part to the absence of any catch reported by the China longline fleet in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, south of the equator (WCPFC-SC 2019b).

The 2017 WCP Convention Area yellowfin catch (670,890 t) was a record, more than 27,000 t higher than the previous record in 2016, due to record catches in the purse seine fishery. The longline catch for 2017 (83,400 t–14%) was amongst the lowest in the past ten years (Figure 2). In 2018, yellowfin catch (666,971 t) was the second highest recorded (only 15,000 t lower than the 2017 record); the past three years have been the highest annual yellowfin catches. The longline yellowfin catch for 2018 (94,543 t) was at the average level for the past five years.

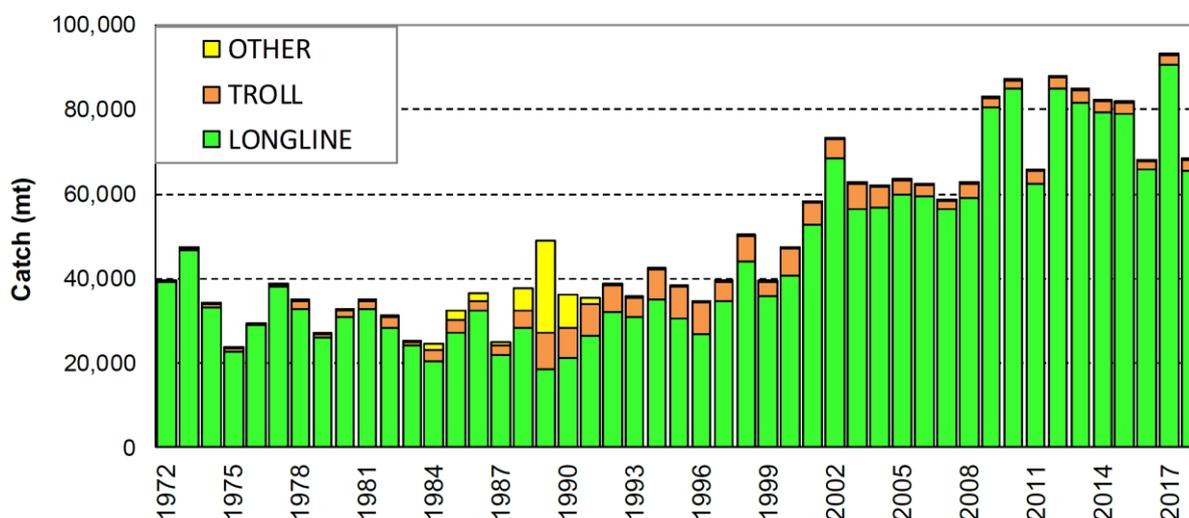


Figure 1. South Pacific albacore catch (t) by gear, 1972–2018; \*other is primarily catch by the driftnet fleet (source WCPFC-SC 2019b)

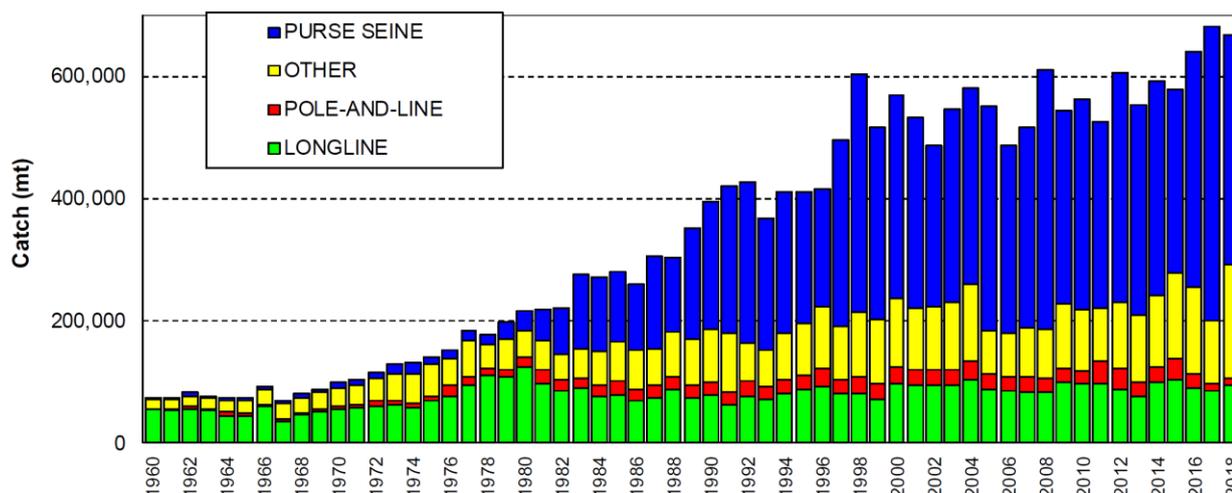


Figure 2. Yellowfin WCP-CA catch (t) by gear, 1960-2018 source (WCPFC-SC 2019b)

A significant increase in Fiji longline catch over previous years is reflected in 2017 albacore catches of 9837 t (Table 3). Yellowfin catch was also higher than in previous years at 4638 t. A slight drop in bigeye catch was reported in 2017 of 1083 t compared to 2016 catches of 1191 t. In 2017, approximately 67% of the fishing occurred in Fiji's waters with 33% in international waters. Overall, 77% of the catch was made in Fiji's EEZ and the High Seas and approximately 23% was made in other EEZs where the Fiji national longline fleet vessels are licensed to fish. In 2018, national fleet catches were 8960 t of albacore, 2559 t of yellowfin and 842 t of bigeye tuna (Figure 3). Provisional catches for 2019 are 8960 t of albacore, 2559 t of yellowfin and 842 t of bigeye tuna. The total catch by the domestic longline fleet (catches inside and outside Fiji EEZ) for 2018 was 14,470 t; provisional 2019 catch was 13,551 t (MoF 2020). The Fiji national longline fleet catch per unit effort (CPUE) for albacore, yellowfin and bigeye tuna are shown in Figure 4.

The rise in catch by the national fleet in recent years reflects accessibility to a wider fishing area within WCPO, and a more efficient data collection and data reconciliation process. In 2015 and 2016, landings data was used to estimate catch. Subsequently, catch has been estimated using logsheet data as a more reliable data source with high coverage percentage (98% in 2018) than other data sources.

Catches by the FFIA MSC certified vessels are shown in Table 12 and Table 13. In 2018, reported albacore catches were 5457 t (86.7% within the EEZ); and 1364 t of yellowfin (97.4% taken within the EEZ) (MoF 2020). In 2019, provisional reported albacore catches were 4860 t (87.3% within the EEZ); and 1625 t of yellowfin (91.1% taken within the EEZ) (MoF 2020). Catches of bigeye tuna were 402 t in 2018 and 435 t in 2019.

Table 3. Annual Catch landed for the Fiji national fleet, 2014 – 2019 (Fiji 2019 and MoF 2020)

Total annual landed catch for Fiji national longline fleet (t)						
Species	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
<b>Albacore</b>	6703	7793	7291	9837	8960	7723
<b>Yellowfin</b>	3594	3609	3934	4638	2559	3198
<b>Bigeye</b>	1586	1169	1191	1083	842	914
<b>Tuna like species</b>	1702	1986	2142	2375	2109	1716
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,585</b>	<b>14,559</b>	<b>14,558</b>	<b>17,933</b>	<b>14,470</b>	<b>13,551</b>

\* 2019 catches are provisional. Note there has been a change in vessel numbers since certification.

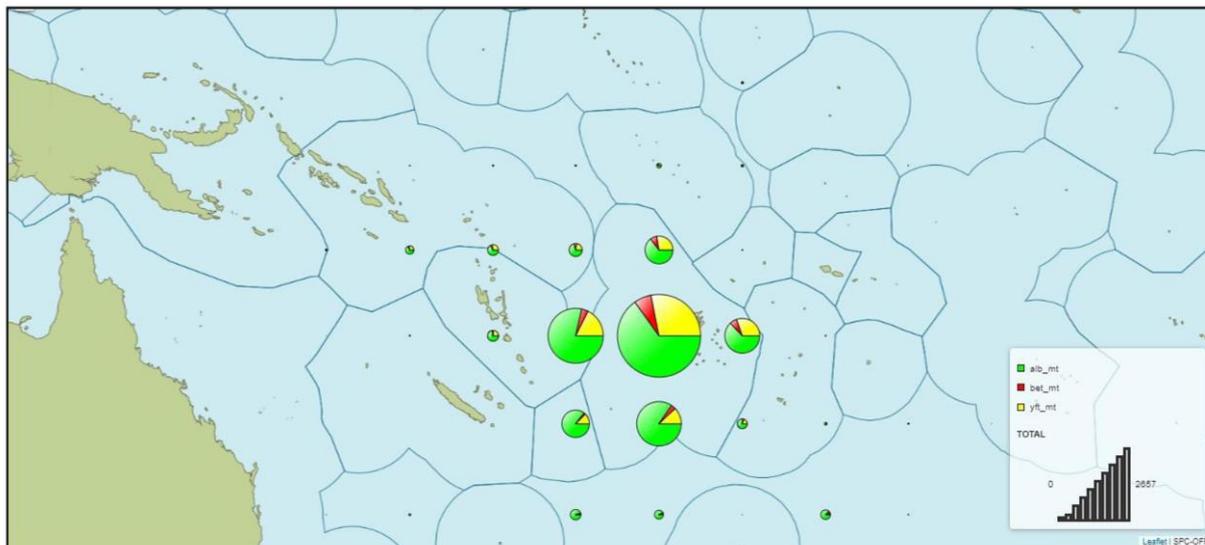


Figure 3. 2018 Fiji flagged fleet catch in WCPFC Convention Area; albacore–green, bigeye–red and yellowfin–yellow. (Fiji 2019).

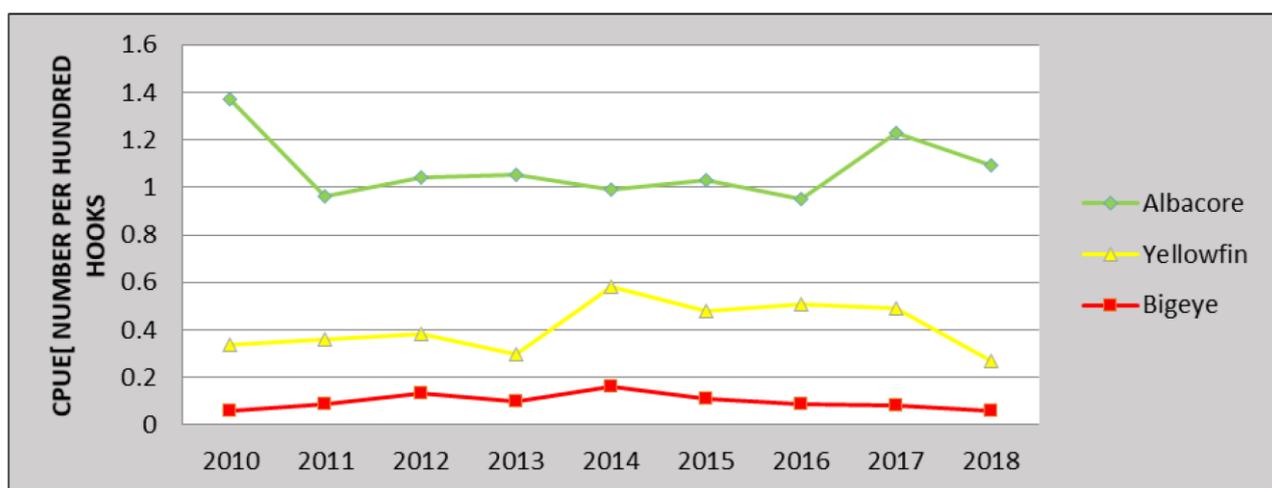


Figure 4. Fiji flagged fleet nominal CPUE 2010 to 2018 (Fiji 2019).

### 3.1 Changes in management system

The general management of WCPFC and the Fiji Government has not changed to any substantial degree that would affect the client fishery. Eight new Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) and one Resolution were adopted at WCPFC16. CMMs relevant to the certification are discussed elsewhere in the report.

Table 4. Updates to CMMs Implemented in the WCPFC in 2019. (from WCPFC website)

	Title
CMM 2019-01	<a href="#">Cooperating Non-Members</a> (replaced CMM 2009-11)
CMM 2019-02	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin</a> (replaced CMM 2018-02)
CMM 2019-03	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Albacore</a> (replaced CMM 2005-03)

CMM 2019-04	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks</a> (effective 1 November 2020)
CMM 2019-05	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure on Mobulid Rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area</a> (effective 1 January 2021)
CMM 2019-06	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure for the Compliance Monitoring Scheme</a> (replaced CMM 2018-07)
CMM 2019-07	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure to establish a list of vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the WCPO</a> (replaced CMM 2010-06)
CMM 2019-08	<a href="#">Conservation and Management Measure for Charter Notification Scheme</a>
Resolution 2019-01	<a href="#">Resolution on climate change as it relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission</a>

### 3.2 Changes in relevant regulations

The Fiji Ministry is currently reviewing the existing Fiji Tuna Management and Development Plan and Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations. It is anticipated that these will be updated over the coming year.

Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

Recent changes in the senior staff at the Ministry of Fisheries include new appointments as Fisheries Permanent Secretary – Craig Strong, Deputy Secretary – Atelaita Rokosuka and Director of Fisheries – Mere Lakeva. These changes have no impact on the client's ability to meet the MSC Principles and standards for their fishery.

### 3.3 Changes to scientific base of information, including stock assessments

#### 3.4 Principle 1 – Target Stocks

##### 3.4.1 South Pacific albacore stock status

As reported at the 1<sup>st</sup> audit, an updated stock assessment for the southern albacore stock was undertaken in 2018, incorporating data to the end of 2016. An updated stock assessment is scheduled to be undertaken in 2021.

The general conclusions of the 2018 assessment (WCPFC-SC 2018) included that:

- While biomass is estimated to have declined initially, estimates of spawning potential, and biomass vulnerable to the various longline fisheries, have been stable or possibly increasing slightly over the past 20 years. This has been influenced mainly by the estimated recruitment, which has generally been somewhat higher since 2000 than in the two decades previous.
- Most models also estimate an increase in spawning and longline vulnerable biomass since about 2011, driven by some high estimated recruitments, particularly around 2009.
- A steady increase in fishing mortality of adult age-classes is estimated to have occurred over most of the assessment period, accelerating since the 1990s but declining following the decline in longline catch seen since 2010. Juvenile fishing mortality increased until around 1990 and has remained stable at a low level since that time.
- Key stock assessment results across all models in the structural uncertainty grid show a wide range of estimates. All models indicate that South Pacific albacore is above the limit reference point (of  $0.2SBF=0$ ), with overall median depletion for 2016 ( $SB_{latest}/SB_{F=0}$ ) estimated at 0.52 (80 percentile range 0.37- 0.69).
- Recent average fishing mortality is estimated to be well below  $F_{MSY}$  (median  $F_{recent}/F_{MSY}=0.2$ , 80 percentile range 0.08-0.41).

Based on the uncertainty grid adopted by the 14th session of the Scientific Committee, management advice to the Commission was that the South Pacific albacore tuna spawning biomass is very likely to be above the biomass LRP and recent  $F$  is very likely below  $F_{MSY}$ , hence the stock is not experiencing overfishing (100% probability  $F < F_{MSY}$ ) and is not in an overfished condition (100% probability  $SB_{recent} > LRP$ ) (WCPFC-SC 2018).

At SC15, a suite of stock projections based on the 2018 assessment were discussed (WCPFC-SC 2019a). SC15 noted that historical status and projections have a greater uncertainty in spawning stock depletion than observed for bigeye and yellowfin tuna because South Pacific albacore has a different grid which incorporates natural mortality and growth which gives a wider spread of uncertainty. Under recent fishery conditions of assuming that the 2018 catch remains constant, SC15 noted that the albacore stock is initially projected to increase as recent estimated relatively high recruitments support adult stock biomass, then decline as future recruitment is sampled from the long-term historical estimates. The projections indicate that median  $F_{2020}/F_{MSY} = 0.24$ ; median  $SB_{2020}/SB_{F=0} = 0.43$ ; and median  $SB_{2020}/SB_{MSY} = 3.2$ . The risk that  $SB_{2020}/SB_{F=0} < LRP = 0\%$ ,  $SB_{2020} < SB_{MSY} = 0\%$  and  $F_{2020} > F_{MSY} = 0\%$ . However, the risk of the stock biomass breaching the LRP in 2035 is expected to be 23% (WCPFC-SC 2019a).

Given the available information, the surveillance team concluded that no scoring changes were required for P1 criteria.

### 3.4.2 Yellowfin tuna stock status

There has been no update to the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock assessment since the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit which summarised the finding of the 2017 assessment (Tremblay-Boyer et al. 2017) incorporating data from 1952 to 2015.

The stock assessment advice from the modelling was based on a structural uncertainty grid comprised of 48 models, each of which was considered to be a plausible representation of yellowfin tuna stock dynamics (WCPFC-SC 2017). SC13 noted that the central tendency of relative recent spawning biomass was median ( $SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}$ ) = 0.33 with a probable range of 0.20 to 0.41 (80% probable range), and there was a roughly 8% probability (4 out of 48 models) that the recent spawning biomass had breached the adopted limit reference point with probability  $P((SB_{recent}/SB_{F=0}) < 0.2) = 0.08$ . The central tendency of relative recent fishing mortality was median ( $F_{recent}/F_{MSY}$ ) = 0.74 with an 80% probability interval of 0.62 to 0.97, and there was a roughly 4% probability (2 out of 48 models) that the recent fishing mortality was above  $F_{MSY}$  with probability  $P((F_{recent}/F_{MSY}) > 1) = 0.04$ .

SC13 management advice was that based on the uncertainty grid adopted, the spawning biomass is highly likely above the biomass LRP and recent  $F$  is highly likely below  $F_{MSY}$ . Noting the uncertainties in the current assessment, it appears that the stock is not experiencing overfishing (96% probability) and that the stock is not in an overfished condition (92% probability) (WCPFC-SC 2017). There has been no change to this management advice at subsequent SC meetings.

The surveillance team reviewed the Principle 1 information for this surveillance audit and concluded that no scoring changes were required.

### 3.4.3 Bigeye tuna

The assessors note that bigeye tuna is currently in assessment as a scope extension for the fishery. Additional information for bigeye is available in the Announcement Comment Draft Report for the species ([https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@\\_@assessments](https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments)).

### 3.4.4 Harvest Strategy development:

As detailed in Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018), WCPFC CMM 2014-06 was adopted to develop and implement a harvest strategy approach for key fish stocks in the WCPO. The CMM identifies the elements that harvest strategies are to contain (including defined operational objectives, TRPs and LRPs for each stock, acceptable levels of risk of not breaching limit reference points, a monitoring strategy, decision rules that aim to achieve the TRP and avoid the LRP, and management strategy evaluation). The CMM required the development of a workplan for its implementation, first adopted at WCPFC12 (WCPFC12, 2015; Attachment Y). There have been several revisions to the workplan in subsequent years (see *Section 1.1 Harmonisation*).

#### *South Pacific albacore*

The major management actions currently in place for South Pacific albacore are set out in CMM-2015-02. As discussed in the Public Certification Report (PCR) for the fishery, CMM 2014-06 was adopted to define the development and implementation of the harvest strategy approach for key fisheries and stocks in the WCPO. The CMM identified the elements that harvest strategies are to contain. One aspect of CMM 2014-06 was the requirement to develop a work plan and indicative timeframes to adopt or refine harvest strategies for skipjack, bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore. A work plan was first agreed at WCPFC12 in 2105. The work plan has undergone several iterations since (as discussed

below) and was subject to a substantial review at WCPFC16 and contains some significant changes in recognition of the needs of WCPFC CCMs as well as recent scientific advice (WCPFC16 2019). SPC is developing an interactive software tool (*Performance Indicators and Management Procedures Explorer - PIMPLE*), intended to facilitate the interactive exploration of the evaluation results, making it easier to compare and evaluate the relative performance of candidate management procedures (WCPFC 16 2019).

In 2017, WCPFC14 agreed on an inter-sessional process to develop a “roadmap” to implement the elements needed for the effective conservation and management of South Pacific albacore, taking into account the updated 2018 stock assessment. The Commission accepted New Zealand’s offer to lead this inter-sessional working group. The terms of reference of this inter-sessional group included considering:

- a. The elements necessary for the implementation of harvest strategy approach to the management of the stock;
- b. an allocation process; and
- c. monitoring and reporting priorities, and addressing of gaps, for all fisheries taking South Pacific albacore within the WCPFC convention area.

In summary, progress on elements of the harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore is that:

- In 2012, an LRP of 20%  $SB_{\text{current, } F=0}$ , was adopted;
- In 2018, an interim TRP of 56%  $SB_{F=0}$  was adopted by WCPFC15 with the objective of achieving an 8% increase in CPUE for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels (WCPFC15 2018). The interim TRP will be revised should a future stock assessment indicate that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE. A managed catch reduction of around 25% will be required to achieve the TRP and will occur over a period no longer than 20 years. WCPFC15 tasked the SC with examining a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve the TRP.
- In 2018, at WCPFC15 the Commission agreed to amend/develop appropriate CMMs to implement a harvest control rule (HCR) with the objective of managing the South Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass towards the target level. The updated 2018 workplan under CMM 2014-06 required an HCR to be implemented by 2021 (WCPFC15 2018, Attachment I). It remains for CCMs to agree on a set of HCRs for testing, using management strategy evaluation, and implementation by the Commission.
- The draft outcomes of the 2019 Commission meeting indicate further changes to the harvest strategy work plan to accommodate “the need for additional work and time to explore and develop the details and practical implementation aspects of the multispecies framework covering all four tuna stocks” (WCPFC 2019). The workplan changes involve delays in the adoption of a management procedure<sup>1</sup> for South Pacific albacore by one year to 2022 (because of a clash in 2021 with an updated albacore assessment that may also necessitate an update to the MSE operating model), as well as a potential update of the interim TRP in accordance with the approach adopted by WCPFC15 (WCPFC16 2019; Attachment H). SPC has developed a harvest strategy display software package (PIMPLE), as a tool for use by CCMs to explore the responses of stocks to the selection of a variety of different performance indicators, using skipjack as an example (WCPFC16-2019-11).

A range of harvest strategy related research was presented at WCPFC16 for discussion. For example, as requested by WCPFC15, WCPFC16-2019-19 examines “a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve [the interim TRP], for consideration in 2019. In undertaking [this work] information from all fisheries will be included while noting that any management measures must take account of the impact of different gear types.” The document presents results from stochastic stock projections across the grid of 72 assessment models under future fishery scenarios to examine their performance in recovering the stock to the TRP.

WCPFC16 agreed to reinvigorate the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group in 2020, under the leadership of Fiji. The Group is to continue to work inter-sessionally and meet on the margins of the 2020 SC and Technical and Compliance Committee meetings to develop a workplan and terms of reference. WCPFC are anticipating development of bridging management arrangements under the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap (WCPFC16 2019, Attachment H).

In 2014, several Pacific Island countries agreed to establish the Tokelau Arrangement, a voluntary in-zone-based management arrangement for the South Pacific albacore seeking to establish catch limits with EEZs. Interim catch limits were proposed but discussions on these arrangements have since stalled.

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<sup>1</sup> The updated CMM 2014-06 work plan uses the term “Management Procedure” in place of “Harvest Control Rule”. A management procedure is a formal specification of data collection and associated estimation model (e.g., the estimation of stock status through an analytical or empirical method) together with a HCR.

### Yellowfin tuna

Information on the general WCPFC harvest strategy for all stocks is provided above and comments on the CMM 2014-06 workplan also apply to yellowfin tuna. Bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna stocks continue to be managed through CMM 2018-01 which replaced CMM 2017-01 and its predecessors, which came into effect on 13 February 2019 and shall remain in effect until 10 February 2021 unless earlier replaced or amended by the Commission. This CMM is intended to provide for a robust transitional management regime pending the full establishment of harvest strategies. Measures in CMM 2018-01 are essentially as described for CMM 2016-01 in the PCR for the fishery. Pending agreement on a target reference point the spawning biomass depletion ratio ( $SB/SB_{F=0}$ ) is to be maintained at or above the average  $SB/SB_{F=0}$  for 2012-2015.

An updated workplan for CMM 2014-06 is an attachment to the WCPFC16 draft summary report (WCPFC16 2019, Attachment H). As indicated above for albacore, WCPFC16 agreed to changes which delay the implementation of elements of the harvest strategy for yellowfin. For yellowfin and bigeye, the changes and revised timeline reflect the substantial body of work required to develop the multispecies framework in advance of further harvest strategy development. This will occur during 2020 and 2021 with flow-on effects to the timing of harvest strategy development for these two stocks (WCPFC16 2019, Attachment H).

## 3.5 Principle 2 – Environmental Impacts

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> audit of the client fishery there has been an increase in the number of vessels under the FFIA certificate. Fiji MoF provided data to enable examination of catches of species other than albacore and yellowfin (MoF 2020) to determine whether there has been a significant change since certification. Logbook and observer data for FFIA MSC vessels for 2018 and 2019 (preliminary) are summarized below. The catch profile of the fishery remains similar to that of the re-assessment, with only bigeye exceeding the 5% threshold for 'main primary' species (Table 5).

There are no changes in the catch composition to warrant further examination at this time.

**Table 5.** Catch composition for 2018 and 2019. Data based on FFIA MSC vessel logbook data provided by Fiji MoF (MoF 2020).

Species	Catch (t)	Catch (t)	%
	2018	2019	2018 and 2019 average
Albacore tuna	5457.53	4860.36	63.8
Bigeye tuna	402.09	434.66	5.2
Black marlin	33.15	47.48	0.5
Blue marlin	58.46	81.52	0.9
Great barracuda	1.98	0.54	0.0
Mahi mahi	94.94	84.28	1.1
Oilfish	100.47	79.15	1.1
Opah/Moonfish	330.35	187.85	3.2
Sailfish (Indo-Pacific)	16.98	30.63	0.3
Short-billed spearfish	46.12	47.99	0.6
Skipjack	270.52	130.25	2.5
Striped marlin	17.4	12.54	0.2

Swordfish	71.77	59.32	0.8
Tuna (unidentified)	1.08	0.51	0.0
Wahoo	99.21	116.31	1.3
Yellowfin tuna	1363.5	1625.12	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8365.55</b>	<b>7798.51</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Fiji has implemented a high level of observer coverage of the longline fleet in recent years. In 2017, 30% of trips by the national fleet were monitored by observers, with 62% of FFIA MSC vessel trips being observed. In 2018, observer coverage was 35% for the national fleet and 52% for the MSC vessels. In 2018, budgetary constraints led to a reduction in observer coverage, with 12.7% coverage for the national fleet and 11.8% for the MSC vessels (i.e. above the WCPFC requirement of 5%). It is expected that coverage will increase in 2020.

Fiji observers are de-briefed at the end of every trip to ensure data reporting quality is maintained. In 2018 a total of 233 trips were de-briefed, registered and processed.

Fiji's port sampling program is carried out on Fiji's national fleet at Suva Port. Fiji Fisheries had a target of port sampling of 144 landings in 2018. A total of 81 port samplings were achieved (56% of the target and approximately 13% of total landings). This activity is carried out by either one port sampler or by observers whilst not on placement. All species and size composition data are submitted to SPC.

Based on the observer data presented in Table 6 and Table 7, there have been no major changes in either overall species composition or in the level of interactions with ETP species. Fiji (2019) provides information on turtle interactions for the national longline fleet (Table 8). A total of 72 turtles were observed in 2017, with 47 reported as dead. In 2019 there were 83 observations with 39 reported dead (Fiji 2019).

**Table 6.** Catch composition (t) from observed FFIA MSC vessels for 2018 and 2019 (data provided by Fiji MoF; values less than 0.01% of total omitted).

<b>Observer data from MSC vessels ( 2019 provisional)</b>			
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>2018 Catch (t)</b>	<b>2019 Catch (t)</b>	<b>Av. % 2018 and 2019</b>
Albacore Tuna	777.91	388.65	51.80
Barracouta	0.14	0.31	0.02
Big Eye Thresher Shark	1.39	1.68	0.14
Big Eye Tuna	98.8	54.85	6.82
Black Marlin	2.71	0.81	0.16
Blue Marlin	12.57	7.89	0.91
Blue Shark	57.4	23.05	3.58
Bronze whaler Shark	0.78	1.2	0.09
Escolar	35.2	12.39	2.12
Great Baraccuda	3.89	2.01	0.26
Indo-Pacific sailfish	4.71	6.01	0.48

Long Snouted Lancet Fish	5.48	2.71	0.36
Long Fin Mako Shark	4.12	0.84	0.22
Mahi mahi	13.48	5.50	0.84
Oceanic Whitetip	2.00	1.35	0.15
Oil Fish	1.64	0.77	0.11
Opah	72.26	26.07	4.37
Pelagic Sting Ray	22.71	13.16	1.59
Short-billed spearfish	10.84	3.73	0.65
Shortfin mako shark	9.69	2.89	0.56
Sickle pomfret	1.5	0.85	0.11
Silky Shark	4.12	4.33	0.38
Skipjack	38.36	17.83	2.50
Slender Sunfish	0.67		0.03
Snake Mackerels	5.08	1.98	0.31
Striped Marlin	10.30	5.99	0.72
Sword Fish	12.49	4.55	0.76
Sharks unidentified	1.53	2.61	0.18
Wahoo	16.84	9.56	1.17
Yellowfin Tuna	244.21	175.30	18.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1473.03</b>	<b>778.89</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 7.** Catch composition showing discards/releases (number) from observed FFIA MSC vessels for 2018 and 2019 (data provided by Fiji MoF).

OBSERVED CATCH ON FFIA MSC VESSELS					
SPECIES	2018		2019		% discards for 2018 and 2019
	Number discarded	Total number observed catch	Number discarded	Total number observed catch	
ALBACORE	1267	68572	412	29182	1.72
ATLANTIC POMFRET / RAY'S BREAM	2	7			28.57
BARRACOUTA (SNOEK)	95	95	48	48	100.00
BIGEYE	250	4288	170	2294	6.38
BLACK GEMFISH	20	20	17	17	100.00

BLACK MACKEREL	7	7			100.00
BLACK MARLIN		70			0.00
BLACKFIN BARRACUDA		48			0.00
BLUE MARLIN	2	313	4	167	1.25
BRILLIANT POMFRET	30	34	8	21	69.09
ESCOLAR	926	2604	346	951	35.78
GEMFISH (SOUTHERN OR SILVER KINGFISH)	76	76			100.00
GLAUERT'S ANGLERFISH		4			0.00
GOLDENSTRIPED SOAPFISH	47	50	16	16	95.45
GREAT BARRACUDA	21	4287	8	1042	0.54
LONGSNOUTED LANCETFISH	5778	5788			99.80
LONGTAIL TUNA		2			0.00
MAHI MAHI	286	11570	99	3024	2.64
NARROW-BARRED SPANISH MACKEREL		5			0.00
OARFISHES NEI	3	3	2	2	100.00
OCEAN SUNFISH	2	2			100.00
OILFISH	14	178	21	52	15.22
OMOSUDID	196	196			100.00
OPAH / MOONFISH	20	1497	4	451	1.23
OTHER FISH	13	16			81.25
PUFFERS (FAMILY)	4	143	2	60	2.96
RAINBOW RUNNER		49			0.00
RAZORBACK SCABBARDFISH	2	2			100.00
ROUDI ESCOLAR	34	34	12	12	100.00
SAILFISH (INDO-PACIFIC)	10	152			6.58
SHORT-BILLED SPEARFISH	9	629	4	24	1.48
SHORTSNOUTED LANCETFISH	217	217	90	90	100.00
SICKLE POMFRET	45	456			9.87
SILVER GEMFISH	4	4			100.00
SKIPJACK	198	7534	123	2733	3.13
SLENDER SUNFISH	95	100			95.00
SLENDER TUNA		4			0.00
SNAKE MACKEREL	537	539	206	206	99.73

SNAKE MACKERELS AND ESCOLARS	3	3	12	16	78.95
SOAPFISH	24	27			88.89
SPANISH MACKEREL (NARROW-BARRED)		3			0.00
STRIPED MARLIN	3	279	2	17	1.11
SWORDFISH	29	350	7	146	7.26
UNICORN FISH	2	2	2	2	100.00
UNSPECIFIED		5	2	2	28.57
WAHOO	51	2885	10	1255	1.47
YELLOWFIN	793	14473	561	10102	5.51
<b>Sea turtles</b>					
GREEN TURTLE	4	4	12	12	100.00
HAWKBILL TURTLE	20	20			100.00
LOGGERHEAD TURTLE	18	18	3	3	100.00
OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE			2	2	100.00
<b>Elasmobranchs</b>					
BIGEYE THRESHER SHARK	16	16	21	21	100.00
BIGNOSE SHARK	2	2	13	13	100.00
BLACKTIP REEF SHARK			6	6	100.00
BLUE SHARK	3163	3172	1038	1038	99.79
BRONZE WHALER SHARK	159	159	109	109	100.00
LONGFIN MAKO SHARK	79	79	33	33	100.00
OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK	209	209	102	102	100.00
PELAGIC STING-RAY	4461	4469	2441	2443	99.86
PELAGIC THRESHER SHARK	19	19			100.00
SHARKS (UNIDENTIFIED)	29	29			100.00
SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK	197	197	49	49	100.00
SILKY SHARK	507	507	422	422	100.00
SILVER-TIP SHARK	4	4	13	13	100.00
THRESHER SHARK	2	2	2	2	100.00
TIGER SHARK	6	6			0.00
VARIOUS SHARKS NEI	41	41	89	89	100.00

Shaded rows are WCPFC “key” shark species

**Table 8.** Interactions with turtles by the Fiji national longline fleet in 2017 and 2018 (Fiji 2019).

OBSERVED CATCH ON FFIA MSC VESSELS				
SPECIES	2017		2018	
	Number of interactions	Number reported dead	Number of interactions	Number reported dead
Green turtles	18	10	15	8
Loggerhead turtles	16	9	24	9
Hawksbill turtles	20	11	23	8
Leatherback turtles	1	0	3	1
Leatherback turtles (new FAO)	8	8	0	0
Olive Ridley turtles	9	9	16	12
Flatback turtles	0	0	1	1
Turtles (unidentified)	0	0	1	0

WWF Pacific’s ‘Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tuna Longline Fisheries in Fiji’ project, funded by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme, has been making a valuable contribution to the client fishery. WWF-Pacific, the Fiji Fishing Industry Association, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Fiji Maritime Academy have been working in partnership on the project which has funded scholarships for the Fiji Maritime Academy’s Deck Hand Fishing and Offshore Fishing Skipper Programmes. As part of the project there has been training in bycatch mitigation and a bycatch manual has been developed (covering sharks, turtles and seabirds). FFIA assisted in the production of this manual.

As reported at the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit, WCPFC, with technical support from the National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research of New Zealand and additional funding from the European Union, conducted a major study of shark post-release mortality. This project is part of the *Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project*. Tagging began in May 2017 and the project was completed in April 2019. A total of 117 shortfin mako and silky sharks were tagged with popup archival tags in New Zealand (n=35), Fiji (n=58), New Caledonia (n=10) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (n=14). Fiji crew and Ministry of Fisheries observers participated in the tagging. Based on the tagging findings, a workshop held in June 2019 provided recommendations on shark handling approaches to reduce mortality,

**Conditions are in place for PI 2.2.3 for the two UoCs in relation the provision of information on imported baits (origin, species, volume and whether they have management measures or any other harvesting guidelines ensuring sustainability of the imported bait species). An important commitment to provision of this information has been made through the introduction by MoF of a requirement that all bait imported is to have an import permit which specifies details of the imports. All containers of bait imported are inspected (with overview by MoF, and Fiji Revenue and Customs).**

Table 9 provides information on bait imported by client companies in 2019.

**Table 9. Bait imports (t) by country of origin for 2019 (data provided by Fiji; MoF 2020).**

TABLE OF IMPORT FOR BAIT FOR FIJI MSC COMPANIES BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOR THE YEAR 2019									
PRODUCT TYPE	CHINA	JAPAN	KOREA	MEXICO	RUSSIA	SOUTH AFRICA	TAIWAN	VIETNAM	TOTAL [MT]
HORSE MACKEREL			21.63						21.63
MACKEREL BAIT	386.45		2.01						388.46
MUROAJI BAIT	138.30								138.30
RAZORBELLY PILCHARDS	27.00								27.00
ROUND SCAD BAIT	82.24		50.39					49.92	182.55
SARDINE BAIT	4,368.45	952.44		185.20	24.30	25.00			5,555.38
SAURY BAIT			13.00				28.12		41.12
SQUID			0.04						0.04
<b>TOTAL [MT]</b>	<b>5,002.43</b>	<b>927.76</b>	<b>87.07</b>	<b>185.20</b>	<b>24.30</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>28.12</b>	<b>49.92</b>	<b>6,354.48</b>

Two CMMs of relevance to the Fiji longline fishery were adopted at WCPFC15, the December 2018 Commission meeting:

- CMM 2018-03 Seabird measures (<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/cmm-2018-03/conservation-and-management-measure-mitigate-impact-fishing-highly-migratory-fish>). Measures had been previously adopted for waters south of 30°S. CMM 2018-03 extends the requirements such that WCPFC member longline fishing vessels fishing in the area 25°S-30°S use one of the following mitigation measures: i) weighted branch lines; ii) tori lines; or iii) hook-shielding devices to mitigate seabird bycatch. MoF data indicates that some FFIA vessels operate in these waters. This extension of the scope of application of seabird mitigation measures came into effect on 1 January 2020.
- CMM 2018-04 Sea turtle measures (<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/cmm-2018-04/conservation-and-management-measure-sea-turtles>). A new sea turtle CMM was also adopted at WCPFC15 and will come into effect on 1 January 2020. The new CMM extends previous measures to apply to all longline fishing vessels fishing in shallow-set manner (as described in the CMM) are required to carry specified measures to mitigate the capture of sea turtles. This CMM replaced the previous sea turtle CMM 2008-03.

Fiji have reported information on seabird and sea turtle interactions in their annual report to the Commission (Fiji 2019) and are compliant with their requirements.

A further two CMMs were introduced at the WCPFC16, the 2019 Commission meeting. Compliance with these conditions will be reported on at the 3<sup>rd</sup> surveillance audit.

- CMM 2019-04 measure for sharks (<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/cmm-2019-04/conservation-and-management-measure-sharks>) This CMM becomes effective on November 1, 2020.
- CMM 2019-05 measure on Mobulid rays caught in association with fisheries in the WCPFC Convention Area (<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/cmm-2019-05/conservation-and-management-measure-mobulid-rays-caught-association-fisheries-wcpfc>). This CMM becomes effective on January 1, 2021.

As was the case at the time of re-assessment of the fishery, although a National Plan of Action has been developed for sharks and its requirements are operational, it has yet to be officially ratified by Fiji Government.

### 3.6 Principle 3 – Management

The current certified areas are the Fiji exclusive economic zone (EEZ), territorial seas, archipelagic waters and the three high seas areas adjacent to Fiji's EEZ. Currently there are 57 Fiji flagged longline vessels based out of Suva which hold either the Fiji EEZ licence and/or archipelagic water/territorial sea and/or high seas authorisation.

#### Management

The general management of WCPFC and the Fiji Government has not changed to any substantial degree that would affect the client fishery. Changes in CMMs relevant to the fishery are discussed elsewhere in the report.

#### Consultation

The Fiji Fisheries Industry Association provided the assessment team with a record of the various meetings it had held in the past year with the Ministry and stakeholders. Meeting documentation was also provided.

The NZAid funded project "Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tuna Longline Fishery", discussed under Principle 2, aims to support the development of sustainable and responsible tuna longline fisheries in Fiji. This project has been a valuable vehicle for consultation between WWF-Pacific, the Fiji Fishing Industry Association, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Fiji Maritime Academy to discuss issues relating to the client fishery.

#### Compliance

Fiji MoF has implemented extensive data collection systems, including logbooks and landings records for all primary species, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, observer data and port inspection reports. The Offshore Fisheries Division (OFD) has a system of paper tracking-checks and a balancing system for its exports.

The Ministry of Fisheries through the OFD holds a record of all Fixed Penalty Notices issued, all court cases for all offences under the Offshore Fisheries Act 2012 and its Regulations 2014. In addition, OFD keeps a record of all investigations carried out since the establishment of the Investigation Unit in 2015. At the site visit, the client group and the Ministry of Fisheries confirmed there have been no compliance breaches by the MSC vessels in the past year.

All vessels carry the FFA approved Automatic Communication Locators in order for them to be electronically monitored through VMS and some have on board the FAO/GEF ABNJ Tuna Project CCTV cameras to monitor on-board activities during the fishing trip and whilst in port. The project ended in September 2019, but the recording and analysis continues whilst awaiting the Ministry decision on the way forward to the initiative.

Another aspect of the *Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project*, discussed in the Principle 2 section (3.5) of the report, has been the industry-driven initiative resulting in Fiji becoming a pilot site for trials on the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) aboard tuna longline vessels. The EMS-equipment is intended to complement the current FFA Vessel Monitoring Systems, in addition to the monitoring conducted by Fiji's own observer program. Fifty vessels were fitted with cameras by the end of the project in June 2019. Discussions on the ongoing operation and maintenance of the EMS-equipment are ongoing.

#### 3.6.1 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability

**[or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)]**

There have been no changes.

### 3.7 Version Details

**Table 10. Fisheries program documents versions**

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	<b>Version 2.1</b>

MSC Fisheries Standard	<b>Version 2.0</b>
MSC General Certification Requirements	<b>Version 2.4.1</b>
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	<b>Version 2.01</b>

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Surveillance results overview

#### 4.1.1 Summary of conditions

Table 11. Summary of conditions

Condition number	Condition	Performance Indicator (PI)	Status	PI original score	PI revised score
1 (UoA 1)	SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.	1.2.1	<b>On target</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
2 (UoA 1)	SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties. SI c) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.	1.2.2	<b>On target</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
3 (UoA 2)	By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.	1.2.1	<b>On target</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>
4 (UoA 2)	SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall	1.2.2	<b>On target</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

	<p>demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>SI c) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>				
5 (UoA 1)	By the fourth surveillance audit, information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.	2.2.3	<b>Behind target</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
6 (UoA 2)	By the fourth surveillance audit, information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.	2.2.3	<b>Behind target</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
7 (UoA 1&2)	By the fourth surveillance audit WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means.	3.2.2	<b>Closed</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>80</b>

#### 4.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

**Table 12. TAC and Catch Data for UoA1 South Pacific albacore**

TAC	Year		Amount	A national TAC of 12,000 t for albacore, bigeye and yellowfin caught within Fiji fisheries waters A provisional TAC of 7294 t for albacore
UoA share of TAC	Year	<b>2019</b>	Amount	n/a
UoA share of total TAC	Year	<b>2019</b>	Amount	n/a
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	<b>2019</b>	Amount	<b>4860 t</b>
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	<b>2018</b>	Amount	<b>5458 t</b>

**Table 13. TAC and Catch Data for UoA2 yellowfin tuna**

TAC	Year		Amount	A national TAC of 12,000 t for albacore, bigeye and yellowfin caught within Fiji fisheries waters
UoA share of TAC	Year	<b>2019</b>	Amount	n/a
UoA share of total TAC	Year	<b>2019</b>	Amount	n/a
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	<b>2019</b>	Amount	<b>1625 t</b>
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	<b>2018</b>	Amount	<b>1363 t</b>

Note: 2019 figures are provisional

#### 4.1.3 Recommendations

No recommendations proposed.

## 4.2 Conditions

### 4.3 Condition 1 (UoA1)

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<b>Performance Indicator(s) &amp; Score(s)</b>	1.2.1	<b>(a) The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Justification</b>	See p.104 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)		
<b>Condition</b>	SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.		
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Milestones are aligned with the latest iteration of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan (WCPFC 2016, Attachment N). Dates are aligned with the WCPFC calendar (i.e. decisions taken at plenary held annually in December) (see summary below).</p> <p>At the first annual surveillance audit and subsequent surveillance audits, the client will provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that the harvest strategy for WCPO albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving the management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC agreed work plan (WCPFC 2016, Attachment N) (see summary below). Score 70.</p> <p>At the fourth surveillance audit, the client will provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in in PI 1.1.1 SG80. Score 80.</p> <p>Summary of harvest strategy work plan timeline for SP albacore:</p> <p>End 2017: Target reference point agreed; SC provides advice on candidate HCR options.</p> <p>End 2018: SC provide advice on performance of candidate HCRs, TCC consider implications of candidate harvest control rules.</p> <p>End 2019: On further advice on candidate HCRs and consideration by TCC; Commission considers candidate HCRs</p> <p>End 2020: HCR agreed. Harvest strategy satisfying CMM 2014-06 requirements in place</p>		
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	<p>WCPFC have already expressed their intention of addressing this issue (see CMM 2014-06), so consultation with WCPFC is not required other than ongoing support by the client and the Fiji Government for WCPFC processes.</p> <p>The client will consult and coordinate primarily with the Ministry of Fisheries but also with the FFA, the SPC and the SC and TCC of the Commission as may be appropriate. The client will also consult with other CCMs engaged in fishing for SP albacore and with environmental NGOs as may be required towards achieving the desired outcome on this Condition.</p>		
<b>Client action plan</b>	Sustainable management of the fisheries resources is a high priority for the Fiji Government. High on this list of fisheries resources is the Tuna species noting the current pessimistic statuses of the Tuna stocks within the WCPO.		

At the national level, Fiji has in place harvest strategies in its fisheries waters, which are embedded in its fisheries laws and policies. These are:

1. Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012 and its Regulations 2014.
2. Tuna Management Plan 2014-2018
3. National Fleet Strategy fishing in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.
4. Obligations under relevant WCPFC CMMs.

In addition, Fiji continues to work closely with SPC and FFA to ensure its MCS strategies remain stringent and updated with recent developments in the ever-evolving Tuna fishery.

Internationally, Fiji has ratified the Tokelau Arrangement and is supportive and actively participating in the developing and confirming harvest control rules for albacore tuna. In addition, Fiji continues to support and push for harvest control rules and reference points of the tunas in the WCPFC process.

In order to demonstrate that the harvest strategy for albacore tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80, the client will:

Year 1 (2018)

Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries, including through the submission of a position statement, towards ensuring that delegations:

- Provide constructive input towards finalising a Catch Management Arrangement for SP albacore via The Tokelau Arrangement.
- Support the Scientific Committee's advice to the Commission on candidate HCRs and the development of other harvest strategy elements for South Pacific albacore fisheries as prescribed by CMM 2014-06.

Year 2 (2019)

Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries to ensure that delegations to meetings provide:

- Further support for progress by the SC on the assessment of candidate HCR performance (i.e. management strategy evaluation) for SP albacore in order for the elements of the harvest strategy to be available for consideration by the SC and WCPFC in December 2019.
- Collaborate with industry sectors and NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on all the elements of a harvest strategy for the albacore stock as prescribed by CMM 2014-06 and the agreed Work Plan.

Year 3 (2020)

Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries and FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meetings, towards:

- Encouraging the finalisation of HCRs by the SC, their acceptance by the TCC and the adoption by the WCPFC Commission of HCRs for SP albacore;
- Agreeing on the adoption of a formal harvest strategy for SP albacore.

Year 4 (2021)

Provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.

**Progress on  
Condition [Year  
1]**

The South Pacific Albacore Virtual Intersessional Working Group, established at WCPFC14 to develop an agreed roadmap to progress implementation of a South Pacific albacore harvest strategy, has been chaired by New Zealand (WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap). The terms of reference of the Working Group are to consider management issues including:

- The elements necessary for implementation of the Harvest Strategy approach to management of the stock;
- an allocation process; and
- monitoring and reporting priorities and addressing gaps for all fisheries taking South Pacific albacore in the WCPFC Convention area.

The four main elements of the roadmap are:

- Review of the current measures;
- SC14 advice to WCPFC15 on technical aspects of the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy;
- TCC14 advice to WCPFC15 on monitoring and reporting gaps in the South Pacific albacore fishery, as well as SIDS and Territories implementation considerations;
- Limits - taking into account the 2018 stock assessment, recommendation an overall limit for the fishery, how it could be distributed (taking into account the interests of SIDS and Territories) and the actions required to achieve biological and economic stability in the fishery.

Two inter-sessional meetings of the Working Group took place in the past year and held a meeting was held in the margins of the Commission meeting where a draft workplan was presented which aimed to achieve adoption of harvest control rules for albacore by 2021.

New Zealand provided a summary to WCPFC15 of inputs by the SC, TCC and the Commission over the period 2010-2018 regarding the requirements of CMM2010-05 and CMM2015-02 (WCPFC15-2018-SPalbroadmap\_suppl). The updated work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM2014-06 remains unchanged for albacore.

*WCPFC Harvest Strategy progress and Interim Target Reference Point adoption*

SPC provided WCPFC15 with a range of potential outcomes associated with maintaining the average South Pacific albacore catches for the period 2013-2015 into the future, to assist CCMs in deciding on an appropriate TRP for South Pacific albacore (WCPFC15-2018-10\_rev1).

WCPFC15 subsequently adopted an interim Target Reference Point for South Pacific albacore as follows (WCPFC15, 2018):

1. WCPFC15 agreed on an interim TRP for South Pacific albacore at 56% of spawning stock biomass in the absence of fishing ( $0.56SBF=0$ ) with the objective of achieving an 8% increase in CPUE for the southern longline fishery as compared to 2013 levels. If a future stock assessment indicates that this interim TRP will not result in the desired longline CPUE, then the interim TRP will be revised in order to meet this objective. The TRP shall be reviewed every 3 years, consistent with the South Pacific albacore assessment schedule.
2. The Commission shall amend or develop appropriate conservation and management measures to implement a harvest control rule, developed in accordance with CMM 2014-06, with the objective of maintaining the South Pacific albacore spawning stock biomass at the target level on average and according to the timeframes specified in paragraph 3, below.
3. In order to manage the required reduction in catches, the timeline for achieving the interim TRP shall be no later than 20 years. The Science Service

	<p>Provider is tasked with identifying a range of alternative catch pathways and timeframes that achieve this, for consideration in 2019.</p> <p>4. In undertaking the assessment identified in paragraph 3, information from all fisheries will be included while noting that any management measures must take account of the impact of different gear types.</p> <p>5. The Scientific Committee shall refer to the TRP in its assessment of the status of the WCPO South Pacific albacore tuna stock and in reporting to the Commission on management advice and implications for this stock.</p> <p>6. Considering that the distribution of the South Pacific albacore stock goes beyond the WCPFC Convention area and the management of this stock is the responsibility of both WCPFC and IATTC, the Commission requested the Scientific Services Provider to coordinate with the IATTC scientific staff with the view to consider including the entire South Pacific in future assessments.</p> <p>As at previous Commission meetings, the work plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM2014-06 was again updated at WCPFC15. The only change for albacore for coming years was the tasking of SPC to identify a range of alternative catch pathways to the interim TRP and timeframes that achieve this. WCPFC15 agreed that the annual meeting in 2019 would be a 6-day meeting with additional time devoted for the Commission to discuss harvest strategies.</p> <p><i>Fiji initiatives</i></p> <p>Fiji has played a positive role in progressing the harvest strategy development through the inter-sessional working group working and through its representation at WCPFC. For example, the Fiji Director of Fisheries led the WCPFC15 small working group on development of a TRP for South Pacific albacore. FFIA continues to engage with Fiji's MoF to promote the adoption of an appropriate WCPFC harvest strategy.</p> <p>Year 1 requirements of the CAP have been met.</p>
<p><b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b></p>	<p><i>Fiji initiatives</i></p> <p>FFIA continues to engage with Fiji's MoF to promote the adoption of an appropriate WCPFC harvest strategy. The <i>MSC Working Group</i> has been established to facilitate discussion between FFIA, MoF and WWF Pacific. The Group met several times in 2019 (the assessment team were provided with minutes of the meetings and letters from FFIA to MoF re MSC issues).</p> <p>Fiji has continued to play a positive role in progressing the harvest strategy development through its representation at WCPFC. At WCPFC15 Fiji led a small working group on development of a TRP for South Pacific albacore. WCPFC16 agreed to reinvigorate the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap Working Group in 2020, under the leadership of Fiji. The Group is to continue to work inter-sessionally and meet on the margins of the 2020 SC and Technical and Compliance Committee meetings to develop a workplan and terms of reference. WCPFC are anticipating development of bridging management arrangements under the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap (WCPFC16 2019, Attachment H).</p> <p>The MSC Alignment Group was first established in 2014 to provide a mechanism for client groups of fisheries certified and under assessment against the MSC fisheries standard to consult and coordinate activities to pursue the adoption of robust harvest strategies. The Group was disbanded in 2017 but reinvigorated in 2019 and met in the margins of the WCPFC16. Participants from 10 MSC certified tuna fisheries and five eNGOs discussed and debated options to ensure continued fishery certification in light of the slow progress being made by the Commission.</p> <p>The client has successfully met the action items identified in the client action plan for Year 2.</p> <p><i>WCPFC Harvest Strategy progress</i></p>

As indicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance report for the fishery (Akroyd and McLoughlin, 2018, the CMM 2014-06 workplan for the implementation of harvest strategies has undergone several modifications since it was first developed. Progress to date on the implementation of a harvest strategy to satisfy CMM 2014-06 requirements includes the adoption of a limit reference point (20%  $SB_{current, F=0}$ ) in 2012, and adoption of an interim target reference point (56%  $SB_{F=0}$ ) in 2018. Progress towards implements the harvest strategy is summarised in Figure 5.

Harvest strategy element	South Pacific Albacore
Management Objectives	Noted
Performance Indicators	Identified
Limit Reference Points	Adopted
Target Reference Point	Interim
Harvest Control Rules	
Management Strategy Evaluation	
Monitoring Strategy	

Figure 5. Progress towards implementing the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy. Dark green shading indicates substantial progress has been made; light green indicates work is currently underway; orange indicates work has not yet begun. (Adapted from WCPFC16-2019-09).

At WCPFC15 (December 2018) the CMM 2014-06 the workplan was further amended (WCPFC15 2018, Attachment I). The major item to be progressed for the South Pacific albacore harvest strategy development was identified as the development and consideration of advice on potential harvest control rules. A range of harvest strategy related research was presented at WCPFC16 for discussion. Relevant research and technical documents are available on the SC15 and WCPFC16 websites. WCPFC16 reviewed the management objectives for South Pacific albacore and considered that there was no need to review them on an annual basis, but they should be amended as required. WCPFC16 agreed to further changes to the workplan (WCPFC16, 2019, Attachment H). This update indicates that the workplan was always intended to be a living document and updated as needed. The updated plan identifies that whilst development of the harvest strategy for South Pacific albacore tuna on a single species basis is ongoing, eventually a multispecies framework will be developed. The need for additional work and time to explore and develop the details and practical implementation aspects of the multispecies framework (covering all four tuna stocks) was identified.

For South Pacific albacore, the updated plan delays adoption of a management procedure (harvest control rule) by one year (to 2022) because of a clash in 2021 with an updated albacore assessment (that may also necessitate an update to the MSE operating model) and a potential update of the interim TRP in accordance with the WCPFC15 adopted approach. The WCPFC16 revised workplan notes that WCPFC are anticipating development of bridging management arrangements under the South Pacific Albacore Roadmap (WCPFC16, 2019, Attachment H).

The activities listed in the latest workplan for South Pacific albacore are as follows:

2020: Develop management procedures and Management strategy evaluation

- SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures. (ongoing);
- TCC consider the implications of potential Management procedures. (ongoing);
- Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures. (ongoing).

	<p>2021: Develop management procedures and Management strategy evaluation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of candidate management procedures;</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of candidate management procedures;</li> <li>• Commission consider and refine a candidate set of management procedures.</li> </ul> <p>2022: as for 2021; <b>Adopt a management procedure.</b></p>
<b>Status of condition</b>	On the basis that progress is being made and the client is meeting the requirements of the client action plan, the Condition is <b>on target</b> .
<b>Additional information</b>	<p>The revised timeline of the CMM 2014-06 workplan will not result in the requirements of this Condition being met by the 2021 hard deadline of the 2019 CAB Variation (see <i>Section 1.1</i>). The meeting of the MSC Alignment Group in the margins of WCPFC16 resolved to request CABs to revisit their joint Principle 1 Variation Request to MSC on the harmonisation of conditions and deadlines for MSC certified tuna fisheries.</p> <p>In its submission at <i>Section 1.1</i>, WWF Pacific raised its concerns that the revision of the workplan will prevent the Condition being met by 2021 as previously scheduled.</p>

#### 4.4 Condition 2 (UoA 1)

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<b>Performance Indicator(s) &amp; Score(s)</b>	1.2.2	<p><b>(a) Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs.</b></p> <p><b>(b) The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</b></p> <p><b>(c) Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs</b></p>	60
<b>Justification</b>	See p.108 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)		
<b>Condition</b>	<p>SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>SI c) By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>		
<b>Milestones</b>	Milestones are aligned with the latest iteration of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan (WCPFC 2016, Attachment N). Dates are aligned with the WCPFC		

	<p>calendar (i.e. decisions taken at plenary held annually in December) (see summary below).</p> <p>At the first annual surveillance audit and subsequent surveillance audits, the client will provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that well defined harvest control rules taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for albacore tuna and that these are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC agreed work plan (WCPFC 2016, Attachment N). Score 60.</p> <p>By the fourth surveillance audit, the client will provide evidence that well-defined harvest control rules taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for albacore tuna that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached. Score 80.</p> <p>Summary of harvest strategy work plan timeline for SP albacore:</p> <p>End 2017: Target reference point agreed; SC provides advice on candidate HCR options.</p> <p>End 2018: SC provides advice on performance of candidate HCRs; TCC consider implications of candidate harvest control rules.</p> <p>End 2019: Further advice on candidate HCRs and consideration by TCC; Commission considers candidate HCRs</p> <p>End 2020: HCR agreed. Harvest strategy satisfying CMM 2014-06 requirements in place.</p>
<p><b>Consultation on condition</b></p>	<p>WCPFC have already expressed their intention of addressing this issue (see CMM 2014-06), so consultation with WCPFC is not required other than ongoing support by the client and the Fiji Government for WCPFC processes.</p> <p>The client will consult and coordinate primarily with the Ministry of Fisheries but also with the FFA, the SPC and the SC and TCC of the Commission as may be appropriate. The client will also consult with other CCMs engaged in fishing for SP albacore and with environmental NGOs as may be required towards achieving the desired outcome on this Condition.</p>
<p><b>Client action plan</b></p>	<p>Fiji joins other FFA members that have an Albacore fishery in continuing to advocate for harvest control rules and reference points through a revised and strengthened WCPFC CMM.</p> <p>With attempts being unsuccessful over the past few years, FFA members have taken the lead to take a unified stand to have stronger management regimes through the Tokelau Arrangement.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place for albacore that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, the client will:</p> <p><u>Year 1 (2018)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries ensuring that delegations to regional and WCPFC meetings encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing analyses required for the development of harvest control rules for albacore in accordance with the agreed Work Plan for the adoption of harvest strategies under CMM 2014-06.</li> <li>• The FFA members to implement initiatives that will facilitate the adoption HCRs for albacore, in particular:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seek support from Tokelau Arrangement members for the adoption of a pragmatic approach to setting country allocations (i.e. a Catch Management Arrangement for EEZs).</li> <li>○ Seek agreement from WCPFC's Secretariat to promote the adoption by the Commission of high seas limits for South Pacific albacore fisheries towards setting a global TAC/TAE for the stock.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2 (2019)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and support initiatives being undertaken to complete the management strategy evaluation of candidate HCRs for consideration by the Commission in December 2019.</li> <li>• Collaborate with other CCMs and environmental NGOs towards securing their support for WCPFC's adoption of HCRs for the albacore stock.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3 (2020)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to collaborate with FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, to seek support for the adoption of HCRs for the SP albacore stock, as may be required.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 4 (2021)</u></p> <p>(a) Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>(b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>(c) Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</b>	Progress against the Condition and FFIA/MoF's role in promoting the adoption of harvest strategy requirements are as described for Condition 1.
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b>	Progress against the Condition and FFIA/MoF's role in promoting the adoption of harvest strategy requirements are as described for Condition 1.
<b>Status of condition</b>	The Condition is <b>on target</b> .
<b>Additional information</b>	As for Condition 1.

#### 4.5 Condition 3 (UoA 2)

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<b>Performance Indicator(s) &amp; Score(s)</b>	1.2.1	<b>a) The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Justification</b>	See p.120 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)		

<b>Condition</b>	By the fourth surveillance audit, demonstrate that the harvest strategy for yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Milestones are aligned with the latest iteration of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan (WCPFC 2016a, Attachment N). Dates are aligned with the WCPFC calendar (i.e. decisions taken at plenary held annually in December) (see summary below).</p> <p>Years 1, 2 and 3: (Resulting score 70)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The client will need to provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that the harvest strategy for WCPO yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving the management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC 2016 agreed work plan (see summary of requirements below).</li> </ul> <p>Year 4: (Resulting score <math>\geq 80</math>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The client will need to provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.</li> </ul> <p>Summary of harvest strategy work plan timeline for yellowfin:</p> <p>End 2017: SC provide advice on Interim performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules; Commission to agree interim performance indicators.</p> <p>End 2018: SC provide advice on target reference points and Commission agree target reference point for yellowfin.</p> <p>End 2019: SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points; Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</p> <p>End 2020: HCRs agreed. Harvest strategy satisfying CMM 2014-06 requirements in place</p>
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	<p>WCPFC have already expressed their intention of addressing this issue (see CMM 2014-06), so consultation with WCPFC is not required other than ongoing support by the client and the Fiji Government for WCPFC processes.</p> <p>The client will consult and coordinate primarily with the Ministry of Fisheries but also with the FFA, the SPC and the SC and TCC of the Commission as may be appropriate. The client will also consult with other CCMs engaged in fishing for SP albacore and with environmental NGOs as may be required towards achieving the desired outcome on this Condition.</p>
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>Sustainable management of the fisheries resources is a high priority for the Fiji Government. High on this list of fisheries resources is the Tuna species noting the current pessimistic statuses of the Tuna stocks within the WCPO.</p> <p>At the national level, Fiji has in place harvest strategies in its fisheries waters, which are embedded in its fisheries laws and policies. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore Fisheries Management Decree 2012 and its Regulations 2014.</li> <li>Tuna Management Plan 2014-2018</li> <li>National Fleet Strategy fishing in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.</li> <li>Obligations under relevant WCPFC CMMs.</li> </ol>

	<p>In addition, Fiji continues to work closely with SPC and FFA to ensure its MCS strategies remain stringent and updated with recent developments in the ever-evolving Tuna fishery.</p> <p>Internationally, Fiji has ratified the Tokelau Arrangement and is supportive and actively participating in the developing and confirming harvest control rules for Albacore tuna. In addition, Fiji continues to support and push for harvest control rules and reference points of the tunas in the WCPFC process.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate that the harvest strategy for yellowfin tuna is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving stock management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80, the client will:</p> <p>Year 1 (2018)</p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries through the submission of a position statement, towards ensuring delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the adoption by the Commission of an agreed TRP for yellowfin tuna.</li> <li>• Support the evaluation by the SPC of candidate HCRs for yellowfin tuna as prescribed by the work plan agreed under CMM 2014-06.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 (2019)</p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support the Scientific Committee's advice to the Commission on the outcomes of HCR evaluation.</li> <li>• Support the adoption of an agreed monitoring strategy to assess fishery performance against reference points.</li> <li>• Encourage further development of harvest strategy elements as prescribed by CMM 2014-06.</li> </ul> <p>Year 3 (2020)</p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries to ensure delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide further support for progress by the SC on the management strategy evaluation of candidate HCRs for yellowfin tuna in order for the elements of the harvest strategy to be available for consideration by the SC and WCPFC in December 2020.</li> <li>• Collaborate with CCMs and environmental NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on the adoption of all the required elements of a harvest strategy for the yellowfin tuna stock at the December 2020 Commission meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Year 4 (2021)</p> <p>Provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and that the elements of the harvest strategy work together towards achieving management objectives reflected in PI 1.1.1 SG80.</p>
<p><b>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</b></p>	<p>Progress for this Condition is essentially as described for Condition 1, above. The working papers prepared for WCPFC15 provide evidence of research and discussions that are taking place at WCPFC in relation to harvest strategy implementation. For this fishery, the major progress at WCPFC15 was the adoption of the interim TRP for South Pacific albacore, no specific agreements appear to have been reached. However, the requirements of the milestones and CAP have been met.</p> <p>At the next surveillance audit for the fishery, consideration will have to be given to the "hard deadline" approach to Principle 1 condition timelines of the variation request accepted by MSC in February 2019 (see <i>Section 1.1</i>).</p> <p>An important step in the workplan is that at the 2019 Commission meeting is that there is an agreed target reference point for yellowfin.</p>

**Progress on Condition [Year 2]**

*Fiji initiatives*

Progress for this Condition is essentially as described for Condition, i.e. FFIA continues to engage with Fiji's MoF to promote the adoption of an appropriate WCPFC harvest strategy. The *MSC Working Group* has been established to facilitate discussion between FFIA, MoF and WWF Pacific. The Group met several time in 2019 (the assessment team were provided with minutes of the meetings and letters from FFIA to MoF re MSC issues). Fiji has continued to play a positive role in progressing the harvest strategy development through its representation at WCPFC.

The client has successfully met the action items identified in the client action plan for Year 2.

*WCPFC Harvest Strategy progress*

As indicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance report for the fishery (Akroyd and McLoughlin, 2018, the CMM 2014-06 workplan for the implementation of harvest strategies has undergone several modifications since it was first developed. Elements of the workplan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna are being run in tandem. WCPFC has set a limit reference point for yellowfin (20%  $SB_{current, F=0}$ ). A range of harvest strategy related research was presented for discussion by WCPFC16. Relevant research and technical documents are available on the SC15 and WCPFC16 websites. Progress towards implements the harvest

Harvest strategy element	Yellowfin	Bigeye
Management Objectives	Noted	
Performance Indicators	Identified	
Limit Reference Points	Adopted	Adopted
Target Reference Point	Interim	Interim
Harvest Control Rules		
Management Strategy Evaluation		
Monitoring Strategy		

strategy is summarised in Figure 6. Progress towards implementing the yellowfin and bigeye harvest strategies. Dark green shading indicates substantial progress has indicates work is currently underway; orange indicates work has not yet begun. (Adapted from WCPFC16-2019-09)..

Harvest strategy element	Yellowfin	Bigeye
Management Objectives	Noted	
Performance Indicators	Identified	
Limit Reference Points	Adopted	Adopted
Target Reference Point	Interim	Interim
Harvest Control Rules		
Management Strategy Evaluation		
Monitoring Strategy		

Figure 6. Progress towards implementing the yellowfin and bigeye harvest strategies. Dark green shading indicates substantial progress has indicates work is currently underway; orange indicates work has not yet begun. (Adapted from WCPFC16-2019-09).

WCPFC16 reviewed the management objectives for tropical tunas contained in CMM 2018-01 and considered that there was no need to review them on an annual basis, but they should be amended as required. A major item to be progressed for yellowfin at WCPFC16 was that the Commission agree a target reference point. This was not achieved, and as for albacore, WCPFC16 agreed

	<p>to further changes to the workplan (WCPFC16, 2019, Attachment H). This update indicates that the workplan was always intended to be a living document and updated as needed. A schedule of research and technical work was identified to support the consideration of a TRP for yellowfin.</p> <p>For yellowfin, the updated plan does not identify a date for the adoption of a management procedure (WCPFC16, 2019, Attachment H).</p> <p>Activities listed in the latest workplan for yellowfin are as follows:</p> <p>2020: Consider Target Reference Point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin;</li> <li>• Commission consider SC advice on range of issues pertaining to the formulation of a TRP for yellowfin.</li> </ul> <p>2021: Agree Target Reference Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC provide advice on potential Target Reference Points for yellowfin.</li> <li>• 2022: Develop management procedures and Management strategy evaluation.</li> <li>• SC provide advice on performance of potential management procedures;</li> <li>• TCC consider the implications of potential management;</li> <li>• Commission consider advice on progress towards management procedures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Status of condition</b></p>	<p>On the basis that progress is being made and the client is meeting the requirements of the client action plan, the Condition is <b>on target</b>.</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b></p>	<p>The revised timeline of the CMM 2014-06 workplan will not result in the requirements of this Condition being met by the 2021 hard deadline of the 2019 CAB Variation (see <i>Section 1.1</i>). The meeting of the MSC Alignment Group in the margins of WCPFC16 resolved to request CABs to revisit their joint Principle 1 Variation Request to MSC on the harmonisation of conditions and deadlines for MSC certified tuna fisheries.</p> <p>In its submission at <i>Section 1.1</i>, WWF Pacific raised its concerns that the revision of the workplan will prevent the Condition being met by 2021 as previously scheduled.</p>

#### 4.6 Condition 4 (UoA 2)

	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
<p><b>Performance Indicator(s) &amp; Score(s)</b></p>	<p>1.2.2</p>	<p><b>a) Well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, or for key LTL species a level consistent with ecosystem needs.</b></p> <p><b>(b) The HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</b></p> <p><b>(c) Available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</b></p>	<p>60</p>

<b>Justification</b>	See p.123 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)
<b>Condition</b>	<p>SI a) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>SI b) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>SI c) By the fourth surveillance audit, the client shall demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Milestones are aligned with the latest iteration of the WCPFC harvest strategy workplan (WCPFC 2016a, Attachment N). Dates are aligned with the WCPFC calendar (i.e. decisions taken at plenary held annually in December).</p> <p><u>Years 1, 2 and 3:</u> (Resulting score = 60)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The client will need to provide evidence that it is actively working to ensure that well defined HCRs taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for yellowfin tuna that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as LRPs are approached. This evidence will include a summary of the actions taken by the client and other relevant parties to achieve this outcome in alignment with the WCPFC agreed work plan (see summary below).</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 4:</u> (Resulting score <math>\geq 80</math>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The client will need to provide evidence that well-defined HCRs taking into account the main uncertainties are in place for yellowfin tuna that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as LRPs are approached.</li> </ul> <p>Summary of harvest strategy work plan timeline for yellowfin:</p> <p>End 2017: SC provide advice on Interim performance indicators to evaluate performance of harvest control rules; Commission to agree interim performance indicators.</p> <p>End 2018: SC provide advice on target reference points and Commission agree target reference point for yellowfin.</p> <p>End 2019: SC provide advice on a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points; Commission agree to a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</p> <p>End 2020: HCRs agreed. Harvest strategy satisfying CMM 2014-06 requirements in place.</p>
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	<p>WCPFC have already expressed their intention of addressing this issue (see CMM 2014-06), so consultation with WCPFC is not required other than ongoing support by the client and the Fiji Government for WCPFC processes.</p> <p>The client will consult and coordinate primarily with the Ministry of Fisheries but also with the FFA, the SPC and the SC and TCC of the Commission as may be appropriate. The client will also consult with other CCMs engaged in fishing for SP albacore and with environmental NGOs as may be required towards achieving the desired outcome on this Condition.</p>
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>In order to demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place for yellowfin tuna that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY, the client will:</p>

	<p><u>Year 1 (Dec 2018)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring that delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the Commission to agree on interim performance indicators as a basis for evaluating the performance of harvest control rules</li> <li>• Support the adoption by the Commission of a target reference point for yellowfin tuna, as prescribed by the Work Plan under CMM 2014-06.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 2 (Dec 2019)</u></p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries ensuring that delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the implementation by the Commission of a monitoring strategy to assess performance against reference points.</li> <li>• Promote completion of the management strategy evaluation of candidate HCRs for consideration by the Commission in December 2019.</li> <li>• Collaborate with CCMs towards encouraging the WCPFC Commission to agree on and adopt HCRs for the yellowfin stock.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 3 (Dec 2020)</u></p> <p>Engagement with the Ministry of Fisheries to ensure that delegations to meetings of the FFA, SC and TCC, in advance of the annual WCPFC Commission meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek support for the adoption of agreed HCRs for yellowfin tuna.</li> <li>• Advocate for the adoption of an agreed harvest strategy for yellowfin tuna that satisfies the requirements of CMM 2014-06.</li> </ul> <p><u>Year 4 (Dec 2021)</u></p> <p>a) Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY.</p> <p>b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties.</p> <p>c) Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</b>	Progress against the Condition and FFIA/MoF's role in promoting the adoption of harvest strategy requirements are as described for Condition 3.
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b>	Progress against the Condition and FFIA/MoF's role in promoting the adoption of harvest strategy requirements are as described for Condition 3.
<b>Status of condition</b>	The Condition is <b>on target</b> .
<b>Additional information</b>	As for Condition 3.

#### 4.7 Condition 5 (UoA 1)

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
	2.2.3	(c) Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.	70

<b>Justification</b>	See p.145 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)
<b>Condition</b>	By the fourth surveillance audit, information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Year 1: (Resulting score = 70)</p> <p>At the first annual surveillance audit, the client will need to present a plan to collate more detailed information on the bait species used and their origin.</p> <p>Year 2: (Resulting score ≥80)</p> <p>A report is available which details usage of bait species used and their place of origin sufficient to support a partial strategy.</p>
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	The FFIA MSC Group is to work with the OFD of the Ministry of Fisheries in ensuring that the required information on bait import are collated and analysed in preparation for the annual surveillance audits.
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>Year 1 (2018):</p> <p>The Offshore Fisheries Division (OFD) of the Ministry of Fisheries and FFIA MSC Group are to work towards expanding the regulation on importation of fish to also include bait to require a permit.</p> <p>In addition, all imported consignments of bait are to accompany information on species by volume, certificate of origin from authorities of origin of the products and copy of export permit of country of export.</p> <p>Year 2 (2019):</p> <p>FFIA in collaboration with the OFD are to produce a report clearly outlining breakdown of all imported baits by: origin, species, volume and whether they have management measures or any other harvesting guidelines ensuring sustainability of the imported bait species.</p>
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</b>	The Ministry of Fisheries (MoF) and the FFIA began discussions on this issue in 2017 and subsequently at the MoF consultation meeting with industry in 2018. As a result, the Ministry adopted a requirement in 2018 that all bait imports must have an import permit which specifies details of the imports. Imported bait is required to have a Certificate of Origin and copies of export permits from exporting countries as per Regulation 13 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations. All containers of bait imported are inspected. Data on imports is being collated. The surveillance team viewed examples of the required bait documentation. The data required to address the condition appears to be available on the documents examined. However, some checking of these data is required. For example, a consignment of sardine bait sourced from China, with documentation that it has been caught by Chinese vessels within waters of Chinese jurisdiction (FAO area 61), is reported as <i>Sardinella aurita</i> which does not appear to be caught in these waters.
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b>	<b>As indicated at the 1<sup>st</sup> surveillance audit, Fiji has introduced a requirement that all imported bait must have a Certificate of Origin and details of exports permits from exporting countries (as per Regulation 13 of the Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations). At the 2<sup>nd</sup> audit, Fiji MoF provided a table of imports by country for 2019, the information being collated from the import permits. The majority of the bait is sourced from China (~5000 t) and Japan (~930 t) (see</b>

	Table 9). However, further information is required on the species caught, for example, approximately 90% of the bait is reported as "sardine bait". The Fiji MoF has written to the affected companies and they, in turn, have written to suppliers seeking additional information (FFIA MSC Group email, 26 March 2020). This additional information is required to meet the milestone and client action plan progress for Year 2.
<b>Status of condition</b>	The Condition is <b>behind target</b> .  For this Condition to be back on target, CAP Milestone 2 must be completed ie "FFIA in collaboration with the OFD are to produce a report clearly outlining breakdown of all imported baits by: origin, species, volume and whether they have management measures or any other harvesting guidelines ensuring sustainability of the imported bait species"
<b>Additional information</b>	In its submission to the audit ( <i>Section 1.1</i> ), WWF Pacific commented that "WWF strongly suggest that a strong collaboration be established between FFIA, MoF and Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) in adopting a much stronger bait traceability process from its primary harvester to Fiji buyers." Discussion with the client and Fiji MoF during the site visit established that this collaboration was in place.

#### 4.8 Condition 6 (UoA 2)

Performance Indicator(s) & Score(s)	Insert relevant PI number(s)	Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text	Score
		2.2.3	<b>(c) Information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.</b>
<b>Justification</b>	See p.145 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)		
<b>Condition</b>	By the fourth surveillance audit, information is adequate to support a partial strategy to manage main secondary species.		
<b>Milestones</b>	<p>Year 1: (Resulting score = 70)</p> <p>At the first annual surveillance audit, the client will need to present a plan to collate more detailed information on the bait species used and their origin.</p> <p>Year 2: (Resulting score ≥80)</p> <p>A report is available which details usage of bait species used and their place of origin sufficient to support a partial strategy.</p>		
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	The FFIA MSC Group is to work with the OFD of the Ministry of Fisheries in ensuring that the required information on bait import are collated and analysed in preparation for the annual surveillance audits.		
<b>Client action plan</b>	<p>Year 1 (2018):</p> <p>The Offshore Fisheries Division (OFD) of the Ministry of Fisheries and FFIA MSC Group are to work towards expanding the regulation on importation of fish to also include bait to require a permit.</p> <p>In addition, all imported consignments of bait are to accompany information on species by volume, certificate of origin from authorities of origin of the products and copy of export permit of country of export.</p> <p>Year 2 (2019):</p> <p>FFIA in collaboration with the OFD are to produce a report clearly outlining breakdown of all imported baits by: origin, species, volume and whether they have management measures or any other harvesting guidelines ensuring sustainability of the imported bait species.</p>		

<b>Progress on Condition [Year 1]</b>	Progress is as reported for Condition 5, above.
<b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b>	Progress is as reported for Condition 5, above.
<b>Status of condition</b>	The Condition is <b>behind target</b> . For this Condition to be back on target, CAP Milestone 2 must be completed ie "FFIA in collaboration with the OFD are to produce a report clearly outlining breakdown of all imported baits by: origin, species, volume and whether they have management measures or any other harvesting guidelines ensuring sustainability of the imported bait species"
<b>Additional information</b>	In its submission to the audit ( <i>Section 1.1</i> ), WWF Pacific commented that "WWF strongly suggest that a strong collaboration be established between FFIA, MoF and Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) in adopting a much stronger bait traceability process from its primary harvester to Fiji buyers." Discussion with the client and Fiji MoF during the site visit established that this collaboration was in place.

#### 4.9 Condition 7 (UoA 1)

	<b>Insert relevant PI number(s)</b>	<b>Insert relevant scoring issue/ scoring guidepost text</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Performance Indicator(s) &amp; Score(s)</b>	3.2.2	<b>(b) Decision-making processes respond to serious and other important issues identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions.</b>	75
<b>Justification</b>	See p.183 of Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018)		
<b>Condition</b>	By the fourth surveillance audit WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means.		
<b>Milestones</b>	End 2017: Some evidence that the Commission is responding to the issue of SP albacore catch rates, e.g. by progressing with the harvest strategy as per the agreed workplan, or some other evidence. End 2018: Ditto End 2019: Ditto End 2020: Decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy, or by some other suitable means.		
<b>Consultation on condition</b>	WCPFC have already expressed their intention of addressing this issue (see CMM 2014-06), so consultation with WCPFC is not required other than ongoing support by the client and the Fiji Government for WCPFC processes. The client will consult and coordinate primarily with the Ministry of Fisheries but also with the FFA, the SPC and the SC and TCC of the Commission as may be appropriate. The client will also consult with other CCMs engaged in fishing for SP albacore and with environmental NGOs as may be required towards achieving the desired outcome on this Condition.		
<b>Client action plan</b>	Fiji joins other FFA members that have an Albacore fishery in continuing to advocate for harvest control rules and reference points through a revised and strengthened WCPFC CMM.		

	<p>With attempts being unsuccessful over the past few years, FFA members have taken the lead to take a unified stand to have stronger management regimes through the Tokelau Arrangement.</p> <p>In order to demonstrate that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means, the client will:</p> <p>Year 1 (Dec 2018)</p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring that delegations to meetings of regional bodies and the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the message that development by the SPC of harvest strategy elements for SP albacore, as prescribed by CMM 2014-06, should incorporate agreed biological, ecological, economic and/or social objectives.</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 (Dec 2019)</p> <p>Engage with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring that delegations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with FFA members, industry sectors and environmental NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on and adopt a harvest strategy for the SP albacore stock that includes agreed economic and/or social objectives.</li> </ul> <p>Year 3 (Dec 2020)</p> <p>Engagement with the Ministry of Fisheries towards ensuring that delegations to meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with FFA members and WCPFC delegates from other major countries fishing the stock, in advance of the annual WCPFC meeting, to seek support for the adoption of a harvest strategy for SP albacore as prescribed by CMM 2014-06.</li> </ul> <p>Year 4 (Dec 2021)</p> <p>Provide evidence that WCPFC decision-making processes have responded to the albacore catch rate issue by putting in place a harvest strategy or some other suitable means.</p>
<p><b>Progress on Condition [Year 2]</b></p>	<p>This condition was raised due to WCPFC's lack of responsiveness to declining albacore catch rates (particularly for the longline sector).</p> <p>WCPFC decision-making processes allow for appropriate consideration of serious and important issues through its committees (SC and TCC) and at the Commission itself. The WCPFC responds to these issues through CMMs and Resolutions and these provide transparent responses to scientific, technical, social, and cultural issues. Stock assessments and studies presented at the SC identify serious issues, such as overfishing of bigeye tuna from 2011 – 2017, at the regional level, using an older assessment model and life history parameters. However, since SC14 (2018), an updated assessment has determined this stock does not have an overfished status, nor is overfishing occurring. These determinations were reaffirmed at SC15 (2019). CMM 2018-01 is the current management measure in place for bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin tuna. The system allows Commission members to be fully informed of the issues under consideration and enables participation in informed decision-making. The Commission decision-making is transparent, and transparency is a requirement of the Convention (Article 21). The appreciation of the "timeliness" of decision-making is more likely a result of the governance arrangements applying to cooperative regional fisheries management (consensus-based decision-making, annual meetings etc.). So, given the international context, response times are probably "best practice" (Medley and Gascoigne, 2017). The WCPFC responds in a "timely manner" to other important issues in its decision-making such as the adoption of a target reference point for South Pacific albacore tuna, as well as continuing to work towards adopting a full Harvest Strategy under a formal workplan (CMM 2014-06 – revised at WCPFC15 and WCPFC16). An updated 2018 assessment indicated the South Pacific albacore stock not to be in an</p>

	<p>overfished state and overfishing was not taking place (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018), and nominal longline CPUE increased in 2017 (Brouwer, et al., 2018). On this basis SG60 and SG80 are met. However, SG100 is not met as it is not clear that all issues are dealt with in a timely manner.</p> <p>As for Conditions 1 &amp; 2, Fiji has been active in its approach to satisfying the requirements of this Conditions on the MSC certification of this fishery through avenues available to them and the Ministry of Fisheries has been actively engaged in supporting FFIA. The FFIA Executive Officer is a member of the Fiji WCPFC delegation.</p>
<b>Status of condition</b>	The Condition is now <b>met</b> .
<b>Additional information</b>	

#### 4.10 Client Action Plan

The Client Action Plan is available in the PCR (Akroyd and McLoughlin, 2018; <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-and-yellowfin-tuna-longline/@@view>)

#### 4.11 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

One Performance Indicator was rescored as a result of the Condition being closed. The revised scoring table is presented here. Revised rationale is shown in red.

#### Evaluation Table for PI 3.2.2 – Decision-making processes

<b>PI 3.2.2</b>	<b>The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.</b>		
<b>Scoring Issue</b>	SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
<b>A</b>	Decision-making processes		
<b>Guide post</b>	There are some decision-making processes in place that result in measures and strategies to achieve the fishery-specific objectives.	There are <b>established</b> decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the fishery-specific objectives.	
<b>Met?</b>	Y	Y	N
<b>Justification</b>	<p>Decision-making processes are in place, which are established, responsive and largely transparent. These are very clearly defined in the Convention (Article 20) and Rules of Procedure. Information used for decision-making is published. Decisions are made by consensus and if necessary by voting (75% majority) and such decisions are binding on members. Members may require an independent review of a decision to ensure it is consistent with the Convention and management objectives. Some decisions, such as the allocation of fishing rights, must be carried out using consensus. Conservation and Management Measures are binding, but resolutions are non-binding. All management measures apply equally inside EEZ and on high seas. Flag states enforce management measures on their own vessels and coastal states within their own EEZ.</p> <p>Decision making processes at the national level are well established and result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives for the fishery.</p>		

<p><b>PI 3.2.2</b></p>	<p><b>The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.</b></p>		
	<p>At the national level the OFMD utilizes science-based data provided by WCPF to assist in its managing Fiji's fisheries resources in accordance with its responsibilities as defined under the OFMD and regulations.</p> <p>Information obtained from monitoring and enforcement activities by the Department that have an impact on fishery decisions made include TACs, actual catches categorized under certain species, catches of non-targeted species and the TMD Plan.</p> <p>Fishery decisions made pertain to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- setting TAC for the tuna fishery</li> <li>- increasing/decreasing licences to harvest tuna</li> <li>- designating areas for fishing/ no fishing- identifying methods of harvesting tuna</li> <li>- increasing fees</li> <li>- utilizing observer data to best estimate non target species</li> </ul> <p>Information is used by the Offshore Department to compile their annual report for management information purposes as well as reporting requirements for WCPFC and FFA.</p> <p>Decision-making processes are in place, and they result in measures and strategies to achieve objectives, which meet SG80.</p> <p>SG60 and SG80 requirements are met.</p>		
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p>Responsiveness of decision-making processes</p>		
<p><b>Guide post</b></p>	<p>Decision-making processes respond to <b>serious issues</b> identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take some account of the wider implications of decisions.</p>	<p>Decision-making processes respond to <b>serious and other important issues</b> identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions.</p>	<p>Decision-making processes respond to <b>all issues</b> identified in relevant research, monitoring, evaluation and consultation, in a transparent, timely and adaptive manner and take account of the wider implications of decisions.</p>
<p><b>Met?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><b>Justification</b></p>	<p>WCPFC decision-making processes allow for appropriate consideration of serious and important issues through its committees (SC and TCC) and at the Commission itself. The WCPFC responds to these issues through CMMs and Resolutions and these provide transparent responses to scientific, technical, social, and cultural issues. Stock assessments and studies presented at the SC identify serious issues, such as overfishing of bigeye tuna from 2011 – 2017, at the regional level, using an older assessment model and life history parameters. However, since SC14 (2018), an updated assessment has determined this stock to no longer have an overfished status, nor is overfishing occurring. These determinations were reaffirmed at SC15 (WCPFC-SC 2019a). These issues are now being addressed through agreed CMM 2018-01 for example. The system allows Commission members to be fully informed of the issues under consideration and enables participation in informed decision-making. The Commission decision-making is transparent, and transparency is a requirement of the Convention (Article 21). The appreciation of the "timeliness" of decision-making is more likely a result of the governance arrangements applying to</p>		

<p><b>PI 3.2.2</b></p>	<p><b>The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.</b></p>		
	<p>cooperative regional fisheries management (consensus-based decision-making, annual meetings etc.). So, given the international context, response times are probably “best practice” (Medley and Gascoigne, 2017). The WCPFC responds in a “timely manner” to other important issues in its decision-making such as the adoption of a target reference point (TRP) for South Pacific albacore tuna, as well as continuing to work towards adopting a full Harvest Strategy under a formal Work Plan (CMM 2014-06 – revised at WCPFC15 in 2018). An updated 2018 assessment indicated the SP albacore stock not to be in an overfished state and overfishing was not taking place (Tremblay-Boyer et al., 2018), and nominal longline CPUE increased in 2017 (Brouwer, et al., 2018). On this basis SG60 and SG80 are met. However, SG100 is not met as it is not clear that all issues are dealt with in a timely manner.</p> <p>SG60 and SG 80 requirements are met. SG100 is not met.</p>		
<p><b>C</b></p>	<p>Use of precautionary approach</p>		
<p><b>Guide post</b></p>		<p>Decision-making processes use the precautionary approach and are based on best available information.</p>	
<p><b>Met?</b></p>		<p>Y</p>	
<p><b>Justification</b></p>	<p>The WCPFC Convention requires that the members of the Commission, directly and through the Commission, apply the precautionary approach, as described in Article 6 and Annex II. Specifically, the Convention requires that Commission be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate and does not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.</p> <p>At national level there is a requirement that decision making processes use the precautionary approach and are based on best available information (OFMD and TMD Plan).</p> <p>SG80 requirements are met.</p>		
<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>Accountability and transparency of management system and decision-making process</p>		
<p><b>Guide post</b></p>	<p>Some information on the fishery’s performance and management action is generally available on request to stakeholders.</p>	<p><b>Information on the fishery’s performance and management action is available on request,</b> and explanations are provided for any actions or lack of action associated with findings and relevant recommendations emerging from research, monitoring, evaluation and review activity.</p>	<p>Formal reporting to all interested stakeholders <b>provides comprehensive information on the fishery’s performance and management actions</b> and describes how the management system responded to findings and relevant recommendations emerging from research, monitoring, evaluation and review activity.</p>
<p><b>Met?</b></p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><b>Justification</b></p>	<p>At the regional level information and recommendations from research, monitoring, evaluation and performance review are published formally. Reports of WCPFC plenary sessions are published formally and are publicly available. Annual (Part 1)</p>		

<b>PI 3.2.2</b>	<b>The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.</b>		
	<p>reports are submitted by members providing detailed reporting on catch, fleet size and other issues relating to the fishery. The WPPFC SC and TCC papers and reports on the web provide a high level of public access and transparency, showing how scientific information is used to inform management actions, which are then monitored for effectiveness and discussed at the Commission.</p> <p>This reporting represents good practice. However, while reports are available, it is not clear that they represent all information that is used in decision making. There is no formal, detailed explanation linking the information provided to the decision that results. In an international context, it is recognized that it is very difficult to give full explanations for all decisions, since this might undermine co-operation. Decisions are often negotiated outcomes with the trade-offs not always apparent.</p> <p>Decision-making processes at the national level are well established and result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives for the fishery. The Offshore Fisheries Department utilizes science- based data provided by WCPF to assist in its managing Fijis fisheries resources in accordance with its responsibilities as defined under the OFMD and regulations. Information obtained from monitoring and enforcement activities by the Department that have an impact on fishery decisions made include TACs, actual catches categorized under certain species, catches of non-target species, increasing/decreasing licences to harvest tuna, designating areas for fishing/ no fishing, and utilizing observer data to best estimate non target species.</p> <p>All this information is made available to stakeholders. The Ministry have a record of providing explanations as to why or why not management actions have been taken. The industry and stakeholders are satisfied that they are informed.</p> <p>Much of the Information is used by the Offshore Dept. to compile their annual report for management information purposes as well as reporting requirements for WCPFC and FFA.</p> <p>Overall, SG60 and SG80 requirements are met at WCPFC and national levels. However, information is not comprehensive for all elements of the management system at the regional level and SG100 is not met.</p>		
<b>E</b>	<b>Approach to disputes</b>		
<b>Guide post</b>	Although the management authority or fishery may be subject to continuing court challenges, it is not indicating a disrespect or defiance of the law by repeatedly violating the same law or regulation necessary for the sustainability for the fishery.	The management system or fishery is attempting to comply in a timely fashion with judicial decisions arising from any legal challenges.	The management system or fishery acts proactively to avoid legal disputes or rapidly implements judicial decisions arising from legal challenges.
<b>Met?</b>	Y	Y	N
<b>Justification</b>	<p>WCPFC is not subject to any court challenges as of 2016, there are no current outstanding judicial disputes and there are no outstanding international disputes. It does not indicate any disrespect or defiance of the law through repeated violations.</p> <p>By resolving disputes through WCPFC meetings the members have avoided legal disputes. The management system acts proactively to avoid legal disputes at the regional level by the prompt incorporation of CMMs into national legislation and the implementation of measures to support such legislation. However, there is</p>		

<b>PI 3.2.2</b>	<b>The fishery-specific management system includes effective decision-making processes that result in measures and strategies to achieve the objectives, and has an appropriate approach to actual disputes in the fishery.</b>
	<p>increasing potential for legal challenges (e.g. in relation to resource allocation) but no evidence as yet of proactive actions.</p> <p>At the national level there is no evidence available to suggest that the OFD is disrespectful to, or defiant of Fiji's law, or indeed, legally binding agreements reached at the Commission as they apply to the UoC. To the contrary, Fiji has shown considerable responsibility in upholding laws and regulations in respect of ensuring the sustainability of the fishery, including enacting agreements reached at the Commission into national legislation.</p> <p>While there have been no judicial decisions arising from legal challenges associated with the fishery, the management system in Fiji has the legal and other frameworks that would enable the Ministry to comply with any such decisions in a timely fashion.</p> <p>There have been several successful court cases. No evidence can be found of avoidance of legal responsibilities, or of any failure to comply with binding judicial decisions. Processes are in place to allow such challenges to take place, but the system has a record of acting appropriately to avoid legal disputes.</p> <p>SG60 and SG80 requirements are met. SG100 requirements are not met.</p>
<b>References</b>	<p><a href="#">Brouwer et al. (2018)</a>  <a href="#">Medley and Gascoigne (2017)</a>  <a href="#">Tremblay-Boyer et al. (2018)</a>  <a href="#">WCPFC-SC (2019a)</a>  <a href="#">WCPFC (2020) CMM and Resolutions</a></p> <p>References from Akroyd and McLoughlin (2018):                      Offshore Fisheries Management Decree (2012-2014)                      Offshore Fisheries Management Regulations (2014)                      Powers and Medley (2016)                      WCPFC (2004) CCMHMS                      WCPFC (2006) Rules and Procedures                      WCPFC (2015) Summary of Meeting                      WCPFC (2017) CMM and Resolutions                      WCPFC SC 14 (2018)</p>
<b>OVERALL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR SCORE:</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>CONDITION NUMBER (if relevant):</b>	<b>NA</b>

## 4.12 Principle Level Scores

### Final Principle Scores

Final Principle Scores		
Principle	UoA 1 albacore tuna	UoA 2 yellowfin tuna
Principle 1 – Target Species	84.2	82.5
Principle 2 – Ecosystem	87.3	87.3
Principle 3 – Management System	87.3	87.3

### 4.13 Summary of PI Level Scores

Principle	Component	Weight	Performance Indicator (PI)		Weight	ALB	YFT
<b>One</b>	Outcome	0.333	1.1.1	Stock status	1.000	100	90
			1.1.2	Stock rebuilding	0.000		
	Management	0.667	1.2.1	Harvest strategy	0.250	70	70
			1.2.2	Harvest control rules & tools	0.250	60	60
			1.2.3	Information & monitoring	0.250	80	90
1.2.4			Assessment of stock status	0.250	95	95	
<b>Two</b>	Primary species	0.200	2.1.1	Outcome	0.333	90	90
			2.1.2	Management strategy	0.333	95	95
			2.1.3	Information/Monitoring	0.333	90	90
	Secondary species	0.200	2.2.1	Outcome	0.333	85	85
			2.2.2	Management strategy	0.333	80	80
			2.2.3	Information/Monitoring	0.333	70	70
	ETP species	0.200	2.3.1	Outcome	0.333	85	85
			2.3.2	Management strategy	0.333	85	85
			2.3.3	Information strategy	0.333	80	80
	Habitats	0.200	2.4.1	Outcome	0.333	100	100
			2.4.2	Management strategy	0.333	100	100
			2.4.3	Information	0.333	100	100
	Ecosystem	0.200	2.5.1	Outcome	0.333	80	80
			2.5.2	Management	0.333	80	80
			2.5.3	Information	0.333	90	90
<b>Three</b>	Governance and policy	0.500	3.1.1	Legal &/or customary framework	0.333	85	85
			3.1.2	Consultation, roles & responsibilities	0.333	90	90
			3.1.3	Long term objectives	0.333	90	90
	Fishery specific management system	0.500	3.2.1	Fishery specific objectives	0.250	90	90
			3.2.2	Decision making processes	0.250	80	80
			3.2.3	Compliance & enforcement	0.250	85	85
			3.2.4	Monitoring & management performance evaluation	0.250	90	90

## 5 Appendices

### 5.1 Site visit and stakeholder participation

The site visit took place in Suva from 24th to 26th February. Meetings were held with the client group, the industry, the Ministry of Fisheries and World Wildlife Fund (Pacific) representatives.

Stakeholders were invited to participate in person and /or to provide written comment. WWF Pacific met with the team and provided a stakeholder submission document (see below).

Members of the Ministry of Fisheries Offshore team met with the audit team and provided information on catches, bycatch, observer data, changes in management and regulations and compliance.

A list of meeting attendees is given below. Jo Akroyd and Kevin McLoughlin attended all meetings as Lloyd's Register MSC assessors.

Anare Raiwalui	FFIA	Executive Officer
Charles Hufflet	Solander	Director
Radhika Kumar	Solander	General Manager
Du Xue Jun	Golden Ocean	Managing Director
Tabaina Eterika	Golden Ocean	Inventory
Nilesh Runn	Sea Quest/Sealand	QC
Jitendra Mohan	Hangton Pacific	General Manager
Netani Tavaga	Ministry of Fisheries	SFO Services
Shelvin Chand	Ministry of Fisheries	FO Data
Hilda Labendahn	Ministry of Fisheries	FA Enforcement
Duncan Williams	WWF	Stakeholder
Adriu Iene	WWF	Stakeholder
Seremaia Tuqiri	WWF	Stakeholder
Ravai Vafo'ou	WWF	Stakeholder
Vilisoni Tarabe	WWF	Stakeholder

## 5.2 Stakeholder input

The audit team met with the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries and WWF Pacific during the site visit.

### **Ministry of Fisheries**

The following is a summary of discussions.

#### *Management*

The general management of WCPFC and the Fiji Government has not changed to any substantial degree that would affect the client fishery. Changes in CMMs relevant to the fishery are discussed elsewhere in the report. The Ministry of Fisheries is revising Tuna Management and Development Plan. Possibly to merge with other sections for a single overall plan. They are also working updating the NPOA Sharks, possibly combining with other work on turtles and seabirds.

#### *Consultation*

The Fiji Fisheries Industry Association provided the assessment team with a record of the various meetings it had held in the past year with the Ministry and stakeholders. Meeting documentation was also provided.

The NZAid funded project “Developing Sustainable and Responsible Tuna Longline Fishery”, discussed under Principle 2, aims to support the development of sustainable and responsible tuna longline fisheries in Fiji. This project has been a valuable vehicle for consultation between WWF-Pacific, the Fiji Fishing Industry Association, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Fiji Maritime Academy to discuss issue relating to the client fishery.

#### *Compliance*

Fiji MoF has implemented extensive data collection systems, including logbooks and landings records for all primary species, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, observer data and port inspection reports. The Offshore Fisheries Division (OFD) has a system of paper tracking-checks and a balancing system for its exports.

The Ministry of Fisheries through the OFD holds a record of all Fixed Penalty Notices issued, all court cases for all offences under the Offshore Fisheries Act 2012 and its Regulations 2014. In addition, OFD keeps a record of all investigations carried out since the establishment of the Investigation Unit in 2015. At the site visit, the client group and the Ministry of Fisheries confirmed there have been no compliance breaches by the MSC vessels in the past year.

All vessels carry the FFA approved Automatic Communication Locators in order for them to be electronically monitored through VMS and some have on board the FAO/GEF ABNJ Tuna Project CCTV cameras to monitor on-board activities during the fishing trip and whilst in port. The project ended in September 2019, but the recording and analysis continues whilst awaiting the Ministry decision on the way forward to the initiative.

Another aspect of the *Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project*, discussed in the Principle 2 section (3.5) of the report, has been the industry-driven initiative resulting in Fiji becoming a pilot site for trials on the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) aboard tuna longline vessels. The EMS-equipment is intended to complement the current FFA Vessel Monitoring Systems, in addition to the monitoring conducted by Fiji's own observer program. Fifty vessels were fitted with cameras by the end of the project in June 2019. Discussions on the ongoing operation and maintenance of the EMS-equipment are ongoing.

#### *Observer coverage*

There has been a drop in 2019 of recent years (down to ~ 12% from over 30%; still above 5% WCPFC requirement). Due to budgetary issue but hoping to restore higher coverage level this year.

**WWF Pacific**

The audit team met with WWF and WWF provided a written submission which was fully discussed. WWF is very supportive of the MSC process and the industry efforts to meet the MSC certification standards. WWF is working closely with the industry to ensure that they will meet the MSC standard for the new assessment that includes yellowfin albacore and bigeye tuna in Fiji's EEZ and the three adjacent high seas pocket. WWF is working with the government on national fisheries policy that will set direction for sustainability and management etc. A draft of this Policy has been sent out for comment.

A written submission (see below) from WWF Pacific was received and discussed at the site visit. The information and comments provided by WWF relate to the open conditions. Where appropriate, comments by WWF below have been reflected as "Additional information" in the reporting of progress against conditions (*Section 4.2*).

<b>Performance Indicator (PI)</b>	<b>Input summary</b>	<b>Input detail</b>	<b>Evidence or references</b>
Performance Indicator -	Summary sentence	Detail of stakeholder input	Objective evidence or references should be provided in support of any claims or claimed errors of fact.
<b>Principle 1</b> - Sustainable fish stocks			

<p><b>1.2.1 - Harvest strategy (FFIA MSC Condition 1)</b></p>	<p>Albacore:          (a) Harvest strategy design-DELAYED</p>	<p>The Harvest Strategies workplan agreed to at the WCPFC 16 indicated the delay in the adoption of the SP Albacore management procedure by 1 year (from 2021 to 2022) due to the advice by SC15 to allow for the stock assessment in 2021 be included in the Management procedure. This will delay the finalization of the harvest strategies and at the same time are not synchronized with FFIA MSC condition 1 timeline i.e. Year 3 (2020) "Agreeing on the adoption of a formal harvest strategy for SP albacore" and Year 4 (2021) " Provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock..."</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments</a></p>
<p><b>1.2.1 - Harvest strategy (FFIA MSC Condition 3)</b></p>	<p>Yellowfin:          (a) Harvest strategy design-DELAYED</p>	<p>The Harvest Strategies workplan agreed to at the WCPFC 16 indicated the delay in the adoption of the Yellowfin TRP as advised by the SC15 to develop a multispecies framework through further scheduled research and technical work. This will delay the finalization of the harvest strategies and therefore will further delay FFIA meeting MSC condition 3 within the required timeline i.e. Year 3 (2020) "Collaborate with CCMs and environmental NGOs towards encouraging the WCPFC to agree on the adoption of all the required elements of a harvest strategy for the yellowfin tuna stock at the December 2020" and by Year 4 (2021) " Provide evidence that the harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock..."</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments</a></p>

<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 2)</b></p>	<p>Albacore:          (a) Management Procedure design and application- DELAYED</p>	<p>With the current workplan, the adoption of SP albacore management procedure is projected to be in 2022. The FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline may be breached in this case. With the current timelines, WWF has noted that FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments</a></p>
<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 2)</b></p>	<p>Albacore:          (b) Management Procedure robustness to uncertainty-DELAYED</p>	<p>With the current workplan, the adoption of SP albacore management procedure is projected to be in 2022. The FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline may be breached in this case. With the current timelines, WWF has noted that FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments</a></p>

<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 2)</b></p>	<p>Albacore: (c ) Management Procedure (formerly known as HCR *provide description) evaluation- DELAYED</p>	<p>With the current workplan, the adoption of SP albacore management procedure is projected to be in 2022. The FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline may be breached in this case. With the current timelines, WWF has noted that FFIA MSC Condition 2 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021. WWF also notes that 2020 milestone "HCR agreed. Harvest strategy satisfying CMM 2014-06 requirements" has not been met for that reason.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019- <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments</a></p>
<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 4)</b></p>	<p>Yellowfin: (a) Management Procedure design and application-DELAYED</p>	<p>The adoption of Yellowfin tuna management procedure is unlikely between the year 2021-2022 as per the indicative workplan for the adoption harvest strategies. In 2022, the Commission will develop the Yellowfin management procedures. However, there is no mentioning of adopting it in Commission records. This indicates that the FFIA MSC Condition 4 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021 i.e. in Year 4 (December 2021) "(a) Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. (b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties. (c )Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)</p> <p>2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019- <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments</a></p>

<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 4)</b></p>	<p>Yellowfin:(b) Management Procedure robustness to uncertainty-DELAYED</p>	<p>The adoption of Yellowfin tuna management procedure is unlikely between the year 2021-2022 as per the indicative workplan for the adoption harvest strategies. In 2022, the Commission will develop the Yellowfin management procedures however their is no mentioning of adopting it. This indicates that the FFIA MSC Condition 4 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021 i.e. in Year 4 (December 2021) "(a)Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. (b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main uncertainties. (c )Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-<a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@ @assessments</a></p>
<p><b>1.2.2 - Harvest control rules and tools (FFIA MSC Condition 4)</b></p>	<p>Yellowfin: (c ) Management Procedure evaluation-DELAYED</p>	<p>The adoption of Yellowfin tuna management procedure is unlikely between the year 2021-2022 as per the revised indicative workplan for the adoption of harvest strategies. In 2022, the Commission will develop the Yellowfin management procedures however their is no mentioning of adopting it. This indicates that the FFIA MSC Condition 4 timeline will not be on target by the year 2021 i.e. in Year 4 (December 2021) "(a )Demonstrate that well defined HCRs are in place that ensure the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached, and that are expected to keep the stock fluctuating around a target level consistent with (or above) MSY. (b) Provide evidence that the HCRs are likely to be robust to the main</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)  2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-<a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@ @assessments</a></p>

		<p>uncertainties. (c )Demonstrate that available evidence indicates that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the HCRs.</p>	
<p><b>Principle 2</b> - Minimising environmental impacts</p>			
<p><b>2.2.3</b> - Secondary species information (FFIA MSC Condition 5)</p>	<p>Albacore:          (c ) Information adequacy for management strategy</p>	<p>WWF acknowledges the collaborative work between FFIA and Ministry of Fisheries in establishing the bait importation conditions for all tuna longline fishing companies in Fiji. However, WWF strongly suggest that a strong collaboration be established between FFIA, MoF and Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) in adopting a much stronger bait traceability process from its primary harvester to Fiji buyers. Such collaboration can specifically look into the authenticity of the baits' certificate of origin in which FRCS may verify its authenticity.</p>	<p>MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments</a></p>

<p><b>2.2.3</b> - Secondary species information (FFIA MSC Condition 6)</p>	<p>Yellowfin:          (c ) Information adequacy for management strategy</p>	<p>WWF acknowledge the collaborative work between FFIA and Ministry of Fisheries in establishing the bait importation conditions for all tuna longline fishing companies in Fiji. However, WWF strongly suggest that a strong collaboration be established between FFIA, MoF and Fiji Revenue and Customs Services (FRCS) in adopting a much stronger bait traceability process from its primary harvester to Fiji buyers. Such collaboration can specifically look into the authenticity of the baits' certificate of origin in which FRCS may verify its authenticity.</p>	<p>MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments</a></p>
<p><b>Principle 3</b> - Effective management</p>			
<p><b>3.2.2</b> - Decision-making processes (FFIA MSC Condition 7)</p>	<p>Albacore:          (b) Responsiveness of decision-making processes</p>	<p>WWF notes the activation of the SP albacore roadmap IWG which is now being chaired by Fiji. A workplan for 2020 to address the formulation of the TRP and pathways to achieving the iTRPs are identified.          The final development and adoption of SP albacore management procedures is based on how WCPFC work according to its living document, the Harvest Strategies Workplan. However, due to scheduled albacore assessment in 2021 the adoption of the SP albacore management procedure will be delayed to 2022. This delaying process should directly impact FFIA's attempt to meeting its MSC conditions timeline.</p>	<p>1. Workplan- Indicative Work Plan For The Adoption of Harvest Strategies Under CMM 2014-06 (As refined and adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 5-11 December 2019)          2. MSC Sustainable Fisheries Certification Report, March 2019-  <a href="https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments">https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@_@assessments</a></p>

### 5.3 Harmonisation (and 2019 CAB Variation Request)

The WCPFC pilot harmonisation meeting that took place in April 2016 is the only formal harmonisation meeting for South Pacific albacore and yellowfin tuna that has been undertaken. Subsequently, harmonisation discussions for Principle 1 have taken place via email between the CABs involved in MSC assessment of WCPFC fisheries.

On 14 February 2019, MSC accepted a variation request submitted by all fisheries CABs for Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) managed highly migratory stocks in the MSC programme, including tuna and swordfish. MSC has required overlapping fisheries to harmonise assessment outcomes, but not condition timelines. CABs sought the variation due to the inconsistencies between fisheries in addressing conditions, in particular the high number of outstanding conditions relating to harvest strategies, reference points and harvest control rules. The variation request proposed a “hard deadline” approach to Principle 1 condition timelines. As a result of the variation request, the deadline for closing harvest strategy conditions for South Pacific albacore and yellowfin is 2021.

In brief, the outcomes of this variation request were that:

- fisheries certified against FCR v1.3: will be upgraded to v2.0 to at the next surveillance audit. No suspension action will be undertaken for fisheries that are behind target on P1 conditions raised against v1.3.
- fisheries already certified against FCR v2.0: Principle 1 conditions and timelines will be harmonised for all tuna fisheries on the same stock. A shared deadline for achievement of conditions is to be set, based on the most recent RFMO workplan (i.e. as at the time of the variation). The deadlines are specified in Appendix A of the variation (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/fiji-albacore-yellowfin-and-bigeye-tuna-longline/@@assessments>).
- to facilitate harmonisation efforts between CABs, surveillance schedules of the relevant tuna fisheries will be aligned (to the extent that is practical) so that annual progress can be assessed collectively by CABs.

The current certification of the Fiji albacore and yellowfin longline fishery was under FCR v2.0. Consideration of the timelines for the Fiji longline conditions is given in the Section 4 of this report. Fisheries taking South Pacific albacore and/or yellowfin tuna in the WCPO requiring harmonisation with this fishery are listed below (Table 14 and Table 15) along with the fishery Principle 1 scores (Table 17 and Table 18). Although some scores were not identical, the respective assessment teams have ensured that the Principle 1 scores are harmonised across assessments such that there are no material differences.

For Principle 3, this fishery also overlaps the other WCPFC fisheries listed below. This was taken into consideration during the initial assessment and during this surveillance. Harmonisation discussions took place in February 2020 regarding the closing of the condition on PI 3.2.2 (Decision-making processes) for South Pacific albacore. Consensus was reached between CABs that this condition should be closed.

**Table 14 – Overlapping fisheries – South Pacific albacore**

Fishery name	Certification status and date
Fiji albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Re-certified Feb 2017
AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna	Re-certified Nov 2018
Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish	Re-scored at 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance Feb 2020; as per CAB Variation Request
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	Re-scored at 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance Feb 2020; as per CAB Variation Request
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin fishery	Certified Nov 2019
American Samoa EEZ albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified Nov 2017
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified Jun 2018

SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	Re-scored at 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance Feb 2020; as per CAB Variation Request
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	In assessment
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	In assessment

**Table 15 – Overlapping fisheries – WCPO yellowfin**

Fishery name	Certification status and date
Fiji albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Re-certified Feb 2017
Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish	Re-scored at 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance Feb 2020; as per CAB Variation Request
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	Re-scored at 4 <sup>th</sup> surveillance Feb 2020; as per CAB Variation Request
SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	Certified Mar 2019
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin fishery	Certified Nov 2019
Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole and line	Re-scored at 3rd surveillance Sep 2019; as per CAB Variation Request
American Samoa EEZ albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified Nov 2017
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	Certified Jun 2018
MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna	Certified Oct 2019
PT Citraraja Ampat Sorong pole and line skipjack and yellowfin tuna	Certified Nov 2018
Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna	Re-scored at 3rd surveillance Aug 2019; as per CAB Variation Request
PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non-FAD tuna purse seine	Re-certified Mar 2018
Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack free school purse seine fishery	Certified Oct 2019
WPSTA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin free school purse seine	Certified Jun 2018

Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	In assessment
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	In assessment
PNG Fishing Industry Association's purse seine skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery	In assessment
Indonesia pole and line and handline, skipjack and yellowfin tuna of Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters	In assessment
North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Indonesian handline yellowfin tuna	In assessment

**Table 16 – Overlapping fisheries**

Supporting information	
See comments above.	
Was either FCP v2.1 Annex PB1.3.3.4 or PB1.3.4.5 applied when harmonising?	<b>n/a</b>
Date of harmonisation meeting	<b>n/a</b>
If applicable, describe the meeting outcome	<b>n/a</b>

**Table 17 – Scoring outcomes - South Pacific albacore**

Performance Indicators (PIs)	1.1.1	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.2.4
Fiji albacore and yellowfin longline (this fishery)	100	70	60	80	95
New Zealand albacore	100	70	60	80	95
AAFA and WFOA South Pacific albacore tuna	100	70	60	80	85
Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish	100	70	60	80	85
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	100	70	60	80	95
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin fishery	100	70	60	80	85

American Samoa EEZ albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	100	70	60	80	95
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	100	70	60	80	95
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Table 18 – Scoring outcomes – WCPO Yellowfin**

Performance Indicators (PIs)	1.1.1	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.2.3	1.2.4
Fiji albacore and yellowfin longline (this fishery)	90	70	60	90	95
Walker Seafood Australia albacore, yellowfin tuna and swordfish	90	70	60	80	95
SZLC, CSFC & FZLC Cook Islands EEZ South Pacific albacore & yellowfin longline	90	70	60	80	95
SZLC CSFC & FZLC FSM EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye Tuna	90	70	60	80	95
Solomon Islands longline albacore and yellowfin fishery	90	70	60	90	95
Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna purse seine and pole and line	90	70	60	90	95
American Samoa EEZ albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	90	70	60	80	95
French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery	90	70	60	80	95
MIFV RMI EEZ Longline Yellowfin and Bigeye tuna	90	70	60	80	95
PT Citraraja Ampat Sorong pole and line skipjack and yellowfin tuna	90	70	60	90	95
Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific Skipjack and Yellowfin tuna	90	70	60	80	95

PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non-FAD tuna purse seine	90	70	60	90	95
Tropical Pacific yellowfin and skipjack free-school purse seine fishery	90	70	60	80	95
WPSTA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin free school purse seine	90	70	60	80	95
Kiribati albacore, bigeye and yellowfin tuna longline fishery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PNG Fishing Industry Association's purse seine skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Indonesia pole and line and handline, skipjack and yellowfin tuna of Western and Central Pacific archipelagic waters	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Indonesian handline yellowfin tuna	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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