

MSC Fisheries Standard V3

Section SE and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Harvest Strategy Development

June 2025

Yellowfin tuna swimming in the depths of the sea ©iStock

The MSC Fisheries Standard Version 3.1 contains requirements (Section SE) to incentivise the development and implementation of robust and precautionary harvest strategies (HS) in stocks managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO). Four tuna stocks managed by the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Commission (WCPFC) are certified against Section SE: Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and South Pacific (SP) albacore. The milestones and deadlines for conditions associated with each stock are provided in the table below.

Notes

1. WCPO skipjack has completed all Section SE milestones and is therefore not included in the table.
2. For the other stocks, the final deadline to complete the Section SE milestones is provided in the dark blue cells. Light blue cells represent Section SE milestones that are now ‘behind target’. If the relevant milestone(s) is not back on target the following year, the stock will be suspended.
3. “Relevant meeting” under the WCPFC column refers to the latest possible time the milestone could be addressed. This refers to either the Scientific Committee meeting in August or the WCPFC annual meeting in December.
4. ‘TTM revision’ refers to the meeting where Tropical Tuna Measure (TTM) revision is planned. The TTM is the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) that focuses on WCPO skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin.
5. This tracker only includes upcoming unmet Section SE milestones based on the MSC Fisheries Standard V.3.1. A check mark under “Section SE Deadline” represents Section SE milestones that have already been closed for that stock.
6. Milestones h1 and h2 do not have an explicit date in the ‘Indicative Workplan for the Adoption of Harvest Strategies under CMM 2014-06’.

If you have any questions, please contact wcpotuna@msc.org

Upcoming Milestones & Deadlines		SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE			WCPO BIGEYE		
		Section SE	WCPFC		Section SE	WCPFC	
		Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS workplan	Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS workplan
b1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	✓	August 2024	August 2024	May 2025	August 2025	August 2025
b2	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are tested through management strategy evaluation simulations.	✓	August 2024	August 2024	May 2027	August 2026	August 2025
d	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	May 2025	August 2025	August 2025	May 2027	August 2026	December 2025
e	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	May 2025	December 2025	December 2025	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (TTM revision)
f1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	May 2025	December 2025	December 2025	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (TTM revision)
h1	Present a plan with steps to engage and prepare WCPFC members for implementation of the harvest strategy.	✓	-	-	May 2027	-	-
h2	Show that the plan to engage and prepare WCPFC members for implementation of the harvest strategy has been enacted.	✓	-	-	May 2028	-	-
f2	Harvest strategy adhering to a management procedure approach, with and including catch or effort constraints or resource-sharing mechanism that follows scientific advice, is implemented.	May 2027	December 2026 (TTM revision)	December 2026 (TTM revision)	May 2029	December 2028	N/A (Plan not included in workplan)
g	Effectiveness review schedule of implemented harvest strategy is determined.	May 2027	December 2026 (TTM revision)	December 2026 (TTM revision)	May 2029	December 2028	December 2026 (TTM revision)

Upcoming Milestones & Deadlines		WCPO YELLOWFIN		
		Section SE	WCPFC	
		Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS workplan
b1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	May 2025	August 2025	August 2026
b2	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are tested through management strategy evaluation simulations.	May 2027	August 2026	August 2026
d	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	May 2027	August 2026	December 2026
e	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (TTM revision)
f1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (TTM revision)
h1	Present a plan with steps to engage and prepare WCPFC members for implementation of the harvest strategy.	May 2027	-	-
h2	Show that the plan to engage and prepare WCPFC members for implementation of the harvest strategy has been enacted.	May 2028	-	-
f2	Harvest strategy adhering to a management procedure approach, with and including catch or effort constraints or resource-sharing mechanism that follows scientific advice, is implemented.	May 2029	December 2028	N/A (Plan not included in workplan)
g	Effectiveness review schedule of implemented harvest strategy is determined.	May 2029	December 2028	December 2026 (TTM revision)

This publication was supported by the Common Oceans Tuna project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).