

MSC FISHERIES STANDARD V3

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

The MSC Fisheries Standard Version 3.1 contains requirements (Section SE) to incentivise the development, adoption 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 on the following pages.

NOTES

1. Skipjack has completed all Section SE milestones and is therefore not included in the table.
2. For the stocks outlined below, the blue cells represent the final deadline to complete the Section SE milestones. This deadline cannot change.
3. White cells represent milestones that are either 'on target'. These can be assessed to be 'behind target' if not met by the Section SE due date.
4. A check mark under "Section SE Due Date" represents Section SE milestones that have already been closed for that stock.
5. Section SE due dates represent the time when the independent assessment teams meet on an annual basis to assess the progress of the conditions (CAB harmonization meeting). This is timed so that the yearly cycle of WCPFC meetings is completed prior to assessing the progress of the conditions.
6. 'Relevant meeting' under the WCPFC column refers to the relevant meeting where the information relevant to the milestone needs to be addressed at the latest. This refers to either the Scientific Committee meeting (SC meeting) in August or the WCPFC annual meeting (WCPFC meeting) in December.
7. '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.
8. Milestones h1 and h2 do not have an explicit date in the WCPFC harvest strategy workplans.
9. Independent assessment teams will be assessing progress on Milestone a for Southwest Pacific swordfish in both 2027 and 2028.

ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions,
please contact
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UPCOMING MILESTONES & DEADLINES		SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE			WCPO BIGEYE		
		SECTION SE	WCPFC		SECTION SE	WCPFC	
		CAB harmonization meeting	Relevant meeting	HS Workplan	CAB harmonization meeting	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	✓	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 2026
d	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	✓	August 2025	August 2025	May 2027	December 2026	December 2025
e	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	✓	December 2025	December 2025	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026
f1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	✓	December 2025	December 2025	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026
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	December 2026	May 2029	December 2028	December 2027 (TTM revision)
g	Effectiveness review schedule of implemented harvest strategy is determined.	✓	December 2026	December 2026	May 2029	December 2028	December 2027

August refers to the SC meeting and December refers to the WCPFC meeting under WCPFC Relevant meetings and HS Workplans (see Notes for more detail).

UPCOMING MILESTONES & DEADLINES		WCPFC YELLOWFIN			SW PACIFIC SWORDFISH		
		SECTION SE	WCPFC		SECTION SE	WCPFC	
		CAB harmonization meeting	Relevant meeting	HS Workplan	CAB harmonization meeting	Relevant meeting	HS Workplan
a	Management objectives, performance indicators, and data needs are defined.	✓	—	—	May 2028* *This milestone will be assessed in May 2027 for "evidence of progress"	December 2027	December 2027
b1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	✓	August 2025	August 2025	May 2029*		
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	*Milestones B1 and B2 have been merged to require identification and testing by the same deadline	August 2028	August 2028
c	Demonstration of consultation and input from stakeholders.	✓	—	—	May 2030	—	—
d	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (through mixed fishery approach)	May 2030	December 2029	December 2029
e	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026	May 2030	December 2029	December 2029
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	—	—	—	—	—
f1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	May 2027	December 2026	December 2026 (through mixed fishery approach)	May 2031*		
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	December 2027 (TTM revision)	*Milestones F1 and F2 have been merged to require adoption and implementation by the same deadline	December 2030	December 2030
g	Effectiveness review schedule of implemented harvest strategy is determined.	May 2029	December 2028	December 2027	May 2031	December 2030	December 2029

August refers to the SC meeting and December refers to the WCPFC meeting under WCPFC Relevant meetings and HS Workplans (see Notes for more detail).

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