



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations



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## Report of the Sixth Project Steering Committee:

# Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Rome, Italy

ABNJ-Tuna-2019-PSC-Rep

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## List of Acronyms

ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
AIS	Automatic Identification System
BDEP	Bycatch Data Exchange Protocol
BMIS	Bycatch Management Information System
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CLAV	Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels
CMM	Conservation and Management Measures
CPC	Contracting party and cooperating non-contracting party
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation ...
CWP	FAO's Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EBFM	Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMS	Electronic Monitoring Systems
e-PSM	IOTC Electronic Port State Measures Application
EU	European Union
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Pacific Islands Fisheries Forum Agency
FFIA	Fiji Fishing Industry Association
FIRMS	Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTA	Ghana Tuna Association
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IMCSN	International Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPNLF	International <b>Pole</b> and Line Foundation
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation
IUU fishing	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IW-LEARN	International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US)
OED	FAO's Office of Evaluation

OPAGAC	Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores
OPP	Ocean Partnerships Project (Common Oceans Project by the World Bank)
OSPESCA	Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector Organization of the Central American Isthmus
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNA	Parties of the Nauru Agreement
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RBM	Rights-Based Management
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SPC	Pacific Community
TCN	Tuna Compliance Network
ToC	Theory of Chance
ToRs	Terms of Reference
t-RFMO	One of the tuna RFMOs, i.e. CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-WCMC	UN Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Centre
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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## **I. Opening of the Meeting**

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1. The sixth meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project was held in FAO Headquarters in Rome from 08-10 July 2019. A total of 47 participants attended the meeting. The list of participants is provided in Annex I.
2. Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO welcomed participants and underlined the influence the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project and the Common Oceans ABNJ Program had on the work of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department since their inception. He highlighted the opportunities for follow-up work under a potential second phase of the Program and assured PSC members of the support of the Senior Management of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

## **II. Election of the Chair**

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3. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, Executive Secretary, ICCAT and Jenny Cheatle, Head of Compliance, ICCAT were elected Co-Chairs of the PSC.
4. The PSC adopted the Agenda provided in Annex II. The list of documents presented to the PSC is provided in Annex III.

## **III. Project Progress in 2018/19 – Discussion of Overall Impact of the Project**

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5. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator presented a plan for the meeting, which should provide a forum for Partners to discuss
  - a. outcomes and the lessons learned;
  - b. activities to complete and opportunities for developing baselines; and
  - c. next steps towards the second phase.
6. The PSC noted the general vision applied during the first phase of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project considering RFMOs the main actors in tuna management in the high seas (and coastal areas) and the Project acting at different levels on the three main processes of the RFMOs' work
  - a. generation of technical information/science;
  - b. science-based decision- making to achieve management objectives; and
  - c. compliance from all stakeholders;with a focus on supporting cooperation across RFMOs and their members. A summary of the project's progress towards achievement of the project indicators is provided in Annex IV.
7. The PSC noted main achievements of component 1 of the project, in particular through the establishment of harvest strategies/management procedures which led to changes in decision making in particular by
  - a. moving away from negotiating quota establishment;
  - b. incorporating uncertainty directly;
  - c. discussing management objectives explicitly;
  - d. changing working relationship between scientist and managers; and
  - e. providing some level of predictability to investments and markets.
8. The PSC noted main achievements of component 2 of the project which
  - a. enhanced countries' capacities to comply with existing conservation and management measures through training;
  - b. developed new tools to combat IUU fishing more effectively (including electronic monitoring systems in Fiji and Ghana, a legal template for the implementation of Port State Measures and an automated Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels); and
  - c. promoted sharing of experiences, knowledge and information among RFMOs.

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9. The PSC noted main achievements of component 3 of the project as follows
- a. better understanding of mechanisms to avoid unwanted catches by tuna purse seine and long line vessels for marine turtles, sharks, and small tunas;
  - b. evolution of fish aggregating device (FAD) designs (non-entangling and biodegradable FADs);
  - c. mainstreaming shark fisheries and improved shark assessments thanks to better data;
  - d. new estimates of seabird mortality from various sources and methodologies; and
  - e. a global portal for disseminating bycatch and mitigation information, the Bycatch Management Information System BMIS<sup>1</sup>
10. The PSC
- a. expressed its appreciation for project activities and achievements, in particular for
    - i. the revival of the Kobe process in terms of knowledge sharing, learning and strengthening cooperation between t-RFMOs on relevant technical issues;
    - ii. global initiatives to improve compliance, in particular the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) and the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN);
    - iii. the support provided to Ghana in terms of estimating catch and effort and handling of protected species, safety issues, operating in the framework of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), capacity building and monitoring;
    - iv. the posting of the Technical Coordinator Sharks and Bycatch within the WCPFC Secretariat and the benefit generated from this in terms of all shark management related issues
    - v. the global seabird bycatch assessment as the most comprehensive attempt to date to estimate the impact of pelagic longline fisheries in the Southern hemisphere; and
  - b. highlighted
    - i. the important role the project played in particular for progressing the development of harvest strategies/management procedures and in the improvements in compliance;
    - ii. the idiosyncrasies of each region and the complementarity of the project partnership providing a different set of opportunities for project support;
    - iii. the increased participation of the global tuna fishing community in certification efforts and the important role of markets in creating incentives;
    - iv. the combination of capacity-building, awareness-raising and collaboration as one of the great strengths of this project;
    - v. the strong involvement of the private sector in developing and applying different techniques for tuna sustainability, reflected in the high co-financing disbursed;
    - vi. that assistance needs to be targeted and relevant for specific RFMO members;
    - vii. the issue of attribution of achievements to specific interventions;
    - viii. the complicated nature of dialogues between scientist and managers which will need time and additional tools to facilitate focused and decision-based discussion;
    - ix. the fundamental role of education and capacity development to support RFMO members in complying with conservation and management measures; and
  - c. encouraged the PMU to use metrics to communicate the achievements of the Project.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bmis-bycatch.org/>

## Component I : Strengthening governance

12. The PSC noted overall progress of component 1 (Table 1), in particular towards the adoption of harvest strategies with all t-RFMOs being committed to develop harvest strategies for major stocks under their mandate.

**Table 1:** Overall progress summary for Project component 1

Output	Brief title	Progress rating					Implement- ation status
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Overall
<b>Component 1</b>							
1.1.1	MSE- capacity building	HS	S	MS	S	HS	>100%
1.1.4	MSE development	S	S	S	S	S	95%
1.1.5	EAF evaluations and plans	S	MS	S	S	S	85%
1.2.1	Review-Pilot VDS	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1.2.2	RBM lessons learned	MS	MS	MS	NA	NA	NA

### Output 1.1.1. Capacity Building on Harvest Strategy

13. The PMU presented the progress under Output 1.1.1 that aims at building capacity of developing States for a better understanding of the process required for the development and adoption of harvest strategies, including harvest control rules and reference points, to support better decision -making concerning management actions.
14. During the last year, the 8<sup>th</sup> Tuna Management Workshop implemented by WWF and Ocean Outcomes was held in San Diego, USA in from 25-26 August 2018. In 2019, WWF began rolling out a series of workshops with the objective of providing training on management strategy evaluation (MSE) for tuna industries in key countries that operate in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The workshops cover topics such as management objectives and strategies, the evaluation of these strategies, and differences in management approaches.

### Output 1.1.4. Science management dialogue

15. The PMU presented the progress achieved under Output 1.1.4, an output closely linked to Output 1.1.1, which supports dialogue between science and management and the development of harvest strategies through, for example, testing of candidate harvest control rules.
16. During the last year
- the project continued its support for the second phase of the Indian Ocean yellowfin and bigeye MSE executed by CSIRO through a Letter of Agreement. Status updates on the development of the operating models for [bigeye](#) and [yellowfin](#) tuna and [management procedure evaluation results](#) were submitted to the IOTC Working Party on Methods in October 2018 and in June 2019 ([bigeye](#) and [yellowfin](#)) to the Technical Committee on Management Procedures;
  - a paper based on discussions held during an MSE Communications Workshop in collaboration with Pew Charitable Trust (San Diego, California, USA, 14-16 January 2018) [Improving communication: the key to more effective MSE Processes](#) was published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences;

**Output 1.1.5. Formulation of plans for implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries.**

17. The PMU presented the progress achieved under Output 1.1.5, which supports the development of plans for implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) / Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) as another tool to strengthen management.
18. The PSC noted that a second meeting on the implementation of the EAFM is planned for 15-17 September 2019 in FAO Headquarters in Rome with the participation of experts, scientists and commissioners from the t-RFMOs. This meeting will discuss possible ways to advance the adoption of implementation plans in the RFMOs and examine the features of a possible roadmap and implementation activities that would facilitate the operationalization of the EAFM process in t-RFMOs.

**Output 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 Rights based management**

19. These two outputs had the objective of reviewing the Rights Based Management system developed in the Western Pacific, *i.e.* the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and disseminating the review's conclusions and lessons. Due to the delays in the approval and start of the Project, PNA undertook the review of the VDS without the support of the Project. The Mid-Term Evaluation therefore suggested eliminating these two outputs.

## Component 2 : Reducing IUU fishing

20. The PSC noted overall progress of component 2 (Table 2)

**Table 2:** Overall progress summary for Project component 2

Output	Brief title	Progress rating					Implement- ation status
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Overall
<b>Component 2</b>							
2.1.1	Global best MCS practices	MS	MS	S	S	S	65%
2.1.2	Tuna Compliance Network	S	MS	S	HS	HS	>100%
2.1.3	MCS certification program	S	MS	MS	MS	MS	50%
1.1.2	Compliance improvement	S	S	S	S	S	95%
2.1.4	PSM legislation template	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	>100%
2.1.5	CLAV and GR harmonized	HS	HS	HS	HS	HS	>100%
2.2.1	Electronic monitoring Fiji longliners	S	HS	MS	S	S	95%
2.2.2	Electronic monitoring Ghana purse seiners	S	MS	S	S	S	100%
2.2.3	Integrated MCS FFA	S	S	S	S	HS	100%
2.2.4	Assessment supply chains for CDS	S	S	S	S	S	100%

### Output 2.1.1 Best practices in MCS

21. The PMU presented the progress achieved under Output 2.1.1, which originally aimed at developing a document on Best Practices for Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) which would be endorsed by all t-RFMOs. In 2018, it had been decided that the preferred approach would be the development of generic and practical MCS implementation sheets targeting national compliance officers in a joint effort with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project, which could be published online. This would provide for a more appealing product with practical guidelines, and for continuous updates depending on developments in RFMOs.
22. The PSC noted steps taken in defining the structure and content of the MCS implementation sheets which will be prepared on about 15 thematic areas in a joint effort with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. The ToRs for engaging an MCS specialist have been developed and the MCS specialist engaged in May 2019.

### Output 2.1.2 Sharing of Experiences in MCS

23. The Coordinator of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) presented the progress achieved under Output 2.1.2, which aims at enhancing capacity by facilitating cooperation, experience and information sharing among MCS practitioners by establishing a tuna compliance network.
24. The PSC took note of the [3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of the Tuna Compliance Network](#) (TCN) which took place from 22-24 February 2019 for the first time with the involvement the five Chairs of the Compliance Committees of the t-RFMOs. The workshop was held back-to-back with the [6<sup>th</sup> Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop](#) organized by the International MCS Network, where TCN members and Chairs of Compliance Committees participated as speakers. The Business Case for the TCN has been completed.
25. The PSC welcomed the progress achieved regarding the TCN, thanked the TCN Coordinator for her essential support and noted that the TCN has proven potential in creating informal spaces for exchange between experts.

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26. The Secretariats of the tuna RFMOs expressed interest in the continued involvement of their staff in the TCN. The PSC noted that long-term funding beyond the Project for the TCN has been secured.

### Output 2.1.3 Certification-based program for training in MCS

27. Output 2.1.3 aims at strengthening the capacity of developing countries through the establishment of a global MCS certification-based course. The development of the curriculum by the Project has been slower than expected, which is reflected in the marginally satisfactory rating for this output. Support was provided for three rounds of the Certificate IV in Fisheries Enforcement and Compliance Training by FFA and the University of the South Pacific, which trained, assessed and certified 70 MSC officers from Pacific countries.
28. The PSC noted that there were no specific activities to advance the global MCS course during the past year.
29. The FFA Representative highlighted that the FFA Course continued without project support and that a total of 151 officers graduated since 2014. The 5<sup>th</sup> online cohort with 38 new enrolments commences in July 2019. She added that the course was very successful at the regional level and opened career pathways. The current course has been specifically tailored to the needs of the Pacific region, but could be adapted to different regional contexts. A proposal for a globalised FFA course has been developed for a potential phase II of the project and first contacts have been established with different universities which could host the face-to-face component of the course.

### Output 1.1.2. Support to improve compliance by t-RFMO members.

30. The PMU presented recent progress achieved under Output 1.1.2, which is designed to supplement capacity building efforts in the t-RFMOs to improve compliance of members with t-RFMO rules. During the last year, the project supported
- the 2018 meeting of the ICCAT Port Inspection Expert group for Capacity and Assistance in Madrid, Spain, from 18-19 September 2018 ([report](#));
  - the [2nd Meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on FADs](#), with additional support from the European Commission, hosted by IATTC, held from 8 to 10 May 2019 in California, USA.

### Output 2.1.4 Legal framework for Port State Measures

31. Output 2.1.4 was successfully completed in mid-2016. The publication [Implementation of Port State measures - A legislative template; framework for procedures; the role of RFMOs](#) authored by Judith Swan has become part of the package used by FAO for capacity development related to Port State Measures and has been used in national and regional workshops. As of the end of June 2019, a total of approximately 3,300 hard copies (2,553 in English, 354 in French, and 392 in Spanish) have been distributed globally, and the publications have been downloaded a total of almost 2,200 times.

### Output 2.1.5 Harmonization of the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels and the Global Vessel Record

32. The PMU presented the progress achieved under Output 2.1.5 on the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV), an initiative taken in 2007 by the t-RFMOs in the context of the Kobe process. The CLAV combines the records of authorized vessels of each t-RFMOs into one global

online database<sup>2</sup> which, since 2014, is automatically updated daily. The project continued to provide support to quality control reviews of the CLAV data.

33. The PSC welcomed the continued support for the CLAV and noted that the t-RFMOs still need to agree on the CLAV operation and maintenance beyond the project duration.
34. The PSC highlighted the importance and usefulness of this output and the need to maintain the quality control.
35. The PSC noted the ongoing developments towards electronic reporting in some t-RFMOs, which will include vessel registration and could include some rules that would increase the data quality.

### Output 2.2.1 Pilot trial of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in Fiji

36. The Representative of the Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji, presented the progress achieved under Output 2.2.1, the EMS trials on board tuna longliners in Fiji. The objective of this output is to facilitate the integration of this new technology into domestic MCS activities in order to improve compliance with, and enforcement of, international, regional and national regulations.
37. The PSC noted progress of the EMS pilot in Fiji with 50 tuna longline vessels now equipped with EMS. The EMS-generated information is currently being used to verify compliance and to improve data and additional uses are being explored. The business case for EMS in Fiji was completed and the results were presented at the Electronic Monitoring Symposium *Technology for Tuna Transparency Challenge* (10-12 April 2019 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia), generating much interest.
38. The Representative of the Fiji Fisheries Industry Association (FFIA) thanked the National Coordinator for his excellent management of the pilot, reiterated its commitment to the EMS pilot activity in Fiji, and highlighted the need to overcome some challenges faced during the implementation including
  - a. high costs (cameras and data storage); and
  - b. timely accessibility of footage for FFIA.
39. The FFIA encouraged the PMU
  - a. to look into ways to overcome these challenges, thus enabling FFIA to fully benefit from the EMS installed on their vessels; and
  - b. to consider preparing a comprehensive report on achievements and outcomes of the Fiji EMS pilot.
40. The PSC noted the need for integration of Vessel Monitoring System and EMS information and for clear regulation of ownership and usage of EMS-generated data.
41. The PSC noted that the EMS pilot provided Fiji with the opportunity to experiment with the technology in early stages of implementation and to fully participate in regional discussions on EMS process standards and database development.
42. The PSC reiterated its view of EMS as a tool complementary to at-sea observers, with longline vessels currently having very low coverage, and providing additional professional opportunities for land-based observers.

### Output 2.2.2 Pilot trial of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in Ghana

43. The objective of output 2.2.2, which is trialling EMS on tuna purse seine vessels in Ghana, is to facilitate the integration of this new technology into domestic MCS activities in order to improve compliance with, and enforcement of, international, regional and national regulations.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://tuna-org.org/GlobalTVR.htm>

44. The PSC noted progress of the Ghanaian EMS pilot with all 14 active Ghanaian tuna purse seine vessels equipped with EMS equipment. Following the presentation of the Business Case study in February 5-7, 2018, the government of Ghana, and the private sector representing participating fleets, pledged financial support to maintain the EMS activities on-going. The activities were completed by the end of December 2018, and the responsibility for the continuation of the Project and the equipment was transferred to the Government of Ghana.
45. The Ghana Tuna Association (GTA), reiterated the industry's commitment to the pilot and highlighted the positive results in terms of monitoring fishing activities. The GTA expressed interest in trialling EMS on pole-and-line vessels as well and highlighted additional potential benefits of EMS. Currently, GTA is exploring different providers of EMS equipment and is optimistic to have a new contract in place by the end of the year.
46. The PSC noted that the Government of Ghana is currently reviewing its licensing conditions including a requirement for EMS on board tuna purse seine vessels, and the need for comprehensive and flexible contracts with the service providers for EMS equipment and associated services.

### **Output 2.2.3 Integrated MCS system FFA**

47. The Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Representative presented the progress achieved under Output 2.2.3, which aims at increasing the capacity of FFA members at national and regional level to conduct fisheries intelligence analyses. FFA has successfully set up a system which integrates different sources of information coming from various MCS tools. In the last 12 months, eleven infringements were detected. FFA is strengthening national capacity through the MCS course (see output 2.1.3) and additional regional MCS Data Analysis training and in-country coaching and mentoring programs.
48. The PSC welcomed this important and impactful work and noted additional work FFA is carrying out aiming at reviewing the Pacific Islands Regional Fisheries Observer courses for Debriefer, Trainer, Assessor and Frontline Manager, ensuring that content, learner resources and assessment tools are up to date, relevant and of high quality.

### **Output 2.2.4 Assessment of Catch Documentation Schemes**

49. Output 2.2.4, which aims at identifying best practices and weaknesses in existing catch documentation schemes led to the preparation of [Design options for the development of tuna catch documentation schemes](#), authored by Gilles Hosch. This publication clarifies the nature of CDS and what they can achieve, and identifies the factors to be considered in the design of such schemes as a management and monitoring, control and surveillance tool in tuna fisheries.
50. The PSC noted that this activity has been successfully completed in 2016 with strong international interest, including amongst t-RFMOs.
51. The PSC noted that a draft proposal for a catch documentation scheme prepared by Gilles Hosch is currently under consideration by IOTC members and could be brought forward for consideration by the Commission.

### Component 3. Reducing ecosystem impacts of tuna fishing

52. The PSC noted overall progress of component 3 (Table 3).

**Table 3:** Overall progress summary for Project component 3

Output	Brief title	Progress rating					Implemen- tation status
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Overall
<b>Component 3</b>							
3.1.1	Shark data	S	HS	HS	HS	HS	>100%
3.1.2	Shark assessment and management	S	HS	HS	HS	HS	>100%
3.1.3	Bycatch mitigation information system	S	S	HS	S	S	95%
3.2.1	Seabird mitigation longliners Indian Ocean and Atlantic Ocean	S	S	S	S	HS	98%
3.2.2	Purse-seine trials of bycatch mitigation	S	S	HS	HS	HS	>100%
1.1.3	Gillnet bycatch Northern Indian Ocean	S	S	S	S	S	98%

53. The Technical Coordinator-Sharks and Bycatch presented a summary of component 3, based on a draft paper entitled “Strengthening Bycatch Management in Global Tuna Fisheries: Obstacles, Opportunities and Outcomes” showing areas of work where lasting, positive change has been achieved through a decision by an RFMO or national authority and areas where improvements, which will not necessarily be maintained beyond the duration of the project, have been achieved. She highlighted the need for tuna RFMOs to manage and conserve bycatch as part of their core business.

54. The PSC

- a. welcomed the draft paper and offered to provide comments;
- b. encouraged the PMU to prepare similar publications for the other thematic components of the project; and
- c. clarified that lasting positive change does not necessarily imply that no further progress is needed.

55. The PSC noted a *Joint t-RFMO Bycatch Working Group* meeting organized by ICCAT Secretariat in Porto, Portugal, 16 to 18 December 2019 under Component 3.

#### Outputs 3.1.1 Shark data

56. The PMU and the IATTC representative presented progress on output 3.1.1 which aims at generating improved bycatch data for sharks from WCPFC and IATTC, including a t-RFMO shark data inventory and data improvement field studies:

- a. WCPFC shark post-release mortality tagging study continued as a co-funded activity with the EU and tagging was completed in April 2019 with 117 sharks tagged;
- b. an activity by James Cook University started in February 2019 and will recommend and specify at least three high priority shark biological data collection studies for future funding and implementation;
- c. development of identification training materials and training for observers by SPC to support WCPFC’s new manta and mobulid regulations, as well as more comprehensive shark identification guides;

- d. IATTC's pilot study to develop a sampling design for the shark fisheries in Central America continued, including an extension of the activities with IATTC funding to December 2019; and
  - e. IATTC carried out capacity building activities with a workshop held in Puntarenas, Costa Rica from 23-26 July 2018 with the objective of strengthening and harmonizing shark fishery data collection.
57. The PSC noted that the IATTC, at its annual meeting, will consider a proposal for funding a long term shark sampling program in Central America and expanding the program to other regions within the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

### Output 3.1.2 Shark assessments

58. The PMU presented progress on output 3.1.2 which aims at identifying risks and priorities for shark conservation through assessments:
- a. WCPFC completed the [Pacific-wide whale shark risk assessment](#) and the [Pacific-wide silky shark assessment](#) (final two of four planned shark stock status assessments), both studies were endorsed by the [WCPFC Scientific Committee in August 2018](#);
  - b. additional activities are ongoing to prepare blue and shortfin mako data from the Chilean Swordfish Fishery for use in Pacific-wide stock assessments and to support alternative assessment methods for WCPO oceanic whitetip sharks;
  - c. Preliminary products from a [shark limit reference point study](#) co-financed by the project and WCPFC were presented to the WCPFC Scientific Committee in 2018 and will be presented in final form to the WCPFC Scientific Committee in 2019.

### Output 3.1.3 Bycatch mitigation

59. The PMU presented progress on output 3.1.3 which aims at collating, catalysing and disseminating new information that will direct effective management to mitigate impacts on bycatch species including sharks, seabirds, sea turtles and cetaceans:
- a. continued work at SPC to expand and refine the Bycatch Management Information System <https://www.bmis-bycatch.org/>, particularly in terms of management information, maps and the shark tagging database including further development of the t-RFMO Shark Browser and production of WCPFC BDEP data for 2018;
  - b. participation of the Technical Coordinator Sharks and Bycatch in several international meetings related to shark management;
  - c. preparation of a draft of a bycatch 'lessons learned' paper recommended by the mid-term review entitled "Strengthening Bycatch Management in Global Tuna Fisheries: Obstacles, Opportunities and Outcomes"; and
  - d. the final bycatch joint analysis workshop was held from 4-6 June 2019 in Wellington, New Zealand to process the data from the WCPFC shark post-release mortality tagging study ([report](#)).

### Output 3.2.1 Mitigation of seabird mortality

60. The Birdlife Representative presented the progress achieved under Output 3.2.1 during the last year, in particular:
- c. completion of the National Awareness workshops with the 13th and final workshop held in Malaysia from 19-20 Sept 2018;
  - d. completion of at-sea demonstrations for best practice seabird bycatch mitigation measures (line-weighting) undertaken on an Indonesian longline vessel in December 2018;
  - e. completion of port-based outreach in Cape Town with 89 vessels visited, 45 of them fishing south of 25°S;

- f. continuation of the port-based outreach in Fiji with >200 individual vessels visited to date, of which approximately 25% are operating in areas of concern for seabirds;
  - g. the final seabird bycatch assessment workshops held in South Africa from 25 February to 01 March 2019 ([report](#))
61. The PSC welcomed the progress achieved and noted the lack of data on implementation of sea-bird mitigation measures in Brazil, which was explained by the complexity of the fishery including frequent gear changes as well as by major structural changes in the fisheries management of the country, which will hopefully be overcome in the near future.
62. The PSC noted the full engagement of experts from the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in the seabird bycatch assessment workshops, including the final one.

### Output 3.2.2 Mitigation of bycatch of small tunas and sharks

63. The ISSF Representative presented the progress achieved under Output 3.2.2 which aims at developing mitigation measures on board tuna purse seine vessels:
- a. advocacy and meeting participation to advance the development of harvest strategies for tuna species
  - b. 91 sea days (27 in the Atlantic testing shark mitigation techniques, 39 in the Western Pacific tagging tuna and shark species to examine survivorship related to different release techniques, and 25 in the Indian Ocean again testing shark mitigation techniques) spent collecting data on purse seine mitigation methods during tests in the Atlantic, Indian, and Western Pacific Oceans;
  - c. continuation of testing of BioFADs in the Indian Ocean, in the Atlantic Ocean with the Ghanaian purse seine fleet and ongoing procurement for tests with Caroline Fishing Corporation (a fishing company from FSM) in the Western Pacific;
  - d. additional twelve Skippers Workshops; and
  - e. the *International Workshop on Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries* (see also [News Release](#)) conducted in collaboration with FAO in Rome from 12-13 March 2019 ([Report](#)).

### Output 1.1.3. Estimation of bycatch rates in gillnet fisheries in the Northern Indian Ocean.

64. The WWF Pakistan Representative presented progress achieved under Output 1.1.3 which aims at better estimating bycatch rates of the gillnet fisheries in the northern Indian Ocean:
- a. crew-based observer coverage has been maintained at 12-15%;
  - b. the use of sub-surface gear setting has remarkably reduced annual dolphin mortality;
  - c. reports from the crew-based observer scheme have been sent to the relevant IOTC working party meetings;
  - d. the final regional workshop was held from 11-13 December 2018 in Karachi, Pakistan on the IOTC's regional observer scheme;
  - e. WWF-Pakistan communicated the 2018 data from the crew-based observer scheme to the Government of Pakistan, reaching a consensus to share the data with the IOTC Secretariat;
  - f. the procurement of longline gear for gear conversion trials is ongoing (through FAO);
  - g. the Marine Programme Advisory Committee continues to be active with four meetings held so far; and
  - h. an external supervisory mission by FAO was also conducted from 14-20 Dec 2018.
65. The PSC noted Pakistan's stronger engagement in IOTC Working Party and Commission Meetings and improved compliance with the IOTC CMMs resulting in conservation gains at the national level.

66. The PSC welcomed the good progress achieved and WWF Pakistan's engagement with the fishers as well as with the government to ensure sustainability of the data collection activities.

#### Component 4. Information and best practices dissemination and M&E

67. The PSC noted overall progress of component 4 (Table 4).

**Table 4:** Overall progress summary for Project component 4

Output	Brief title	Progress rating					Implement- ation status
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Overall
<b>Component 4</b>							
4.1.1	Dissemination of results	S	MS	S	S	S	90%
4.1.2	Results and next steps	NA	S	HS	HS	HS	95%
4.1.3	IW:LEARN	S	S	S	S	S	90%
4.2.1	Evaluations	NA	S	S	S	S	80%

#### Project communication and knowledge management

68. The PMU presented progress achieved under Output 4.1.1, in particular:

- a. five issues of the [Programmatic Newsletter](#) to a mailing list currently including 5,330 contacts;
- b. the [leaflet presenting the Tuna Compliance network \(TCN\)](#) was translated into [Spanish](#) and [French](#);
- c. during the period July 2018 to June 2019, the [programmatic website](#) had 8,396 users (+21%) and 11,386 sessions (+20%), and the total average of sessions per month increased from 791 to 948 compared in the previous year;
- d. 247 tweets (-15%) incorporating the hashtag [#CommonOceans](#) were posted, followed by 1,666 retweets (-14%) and 2,618 likes (+22%). In June 2019, the corporate account [@FAOFish](#) had 27.9k followers and the Spanish equivalent [@FAOPesca](#) had 10.5k followers;
- e. a flyer on [the use of EMS to combat IUU fishing – Results from activities in Ghana and Fiji](#), was prepared and uploaded on the website;
- f. the [Programmatic brochure](#) was updated with recent achievements for all four Projects;
- g. the seven videos available in the joint [Common Oceans ABNJ YouTube Playlist](#) have also been added to the resource section, and by the end of the reporting period, the videos had been viewed a total of 3,252 times;
- h. members from the PMU attended several t-RFMO meetings (IATTC: Commission, ICCAT: Commission, IOTC: Commission, WCPFC: Commission, Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee) and other international meetings including the first (September 2018) and second (March-April 2019) [Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction](#).

69. The PSC welcomed the improved communication efforts and noted that communications were strengthened due to reallocation of funds.

70. The PSC noted the project's participation in the 9<sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco from 05-08 November 2018.

## M&E final reports

71. The PMU presented reporting requirements until the end of the Tuna Project including the following reports:
  - a. Project Implementation Review 2018-19;
  - b. Project Progress Report July-Dec 2019; and
  - c. Terminal Report.
72. The PSC noted the additional information requirements for the Terminal Report including:
  - a. Lessons learned – elements of success;
  - b. Lessons learned – constraints;
  - c. Sustainability (in all dimensions); and
  - d. Human interest stories
73. The PMU will approach the partners for the additional information required for the Terminal Report.

## IV. Terminal Evaluation of the Project/Program

74. The representative of FAO's Office of Evaluation (OED) introduced the approach for the Terminal Evaluation, which will look at the Common Oceans ABNJ Program as a whole, taking into account the added value brought by the programmatic approach, in line with Guidelines from the GEF Office of Evaluation.
75. OED introduced the team for the programmatic Terminal Evaluation:
  - a. Harvey Garcia: Evaluation Manager;
  - b. Subramanyam Vidalur Divvaakar (Overall Team leader): In charge of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program Evaluation Report (including ABNJ Coordination and an annex on the ABNJ Capacity Project Evaluation);
  - c. Fabio Hazin: In charge of the ABNJ Tuna Project Terminal Evaluation Report;
  - d. Jean-Jacques Maguire: In charge of the ABNJ Deep Sea Project Terminal Evaluation Report; and
  - e. Additional evaluation analyst/technical experts still to be identified.
76. The PSC noted the objectives of the Evaluation as follows:
  - a. assess the relevance of the program and its related projects as well as the quality of their design and implementation arrangements;
  - b. assess results (including intermediate outcome, long term outcomes and pathways from outcomes to impacts); gaps and challenges in achieving its intended results; and opportunities or risks to the sustainability of the program's/project's results and benefits;
  - c. identify lessons from program-level and project-level implementation; and
  - d. rate the project according to the prescribed GEF rating scheme.
77. The PSC noted the timeline for the Terminal Evaluation as shown in Table 5.

**Table 5:** Draft timeline for the Programmatic Evaluation

Task	Estimated Dates
Recruitment of Evaluation Team	June-July 2019
ToR finalization	July 2019
Reading background documentation, <u>Inception report finalization</u> , preparation of evaluation matrix	July-August 2019
Mission organization and travel arrangements	August-September 2019

Field mission, in-country interviews, Skype interviews, surveys (as needed), debriefing	From September to October 2019
Drafting report (Zero Draft)	November 2019
Review by Evaluation Manager and Peer Review	December 2019
Circulation (1 <sup>st</sup> Draft) to the Project Management Units for comments and revision by Evaluation Team	December/January 2020
Circulation (revised 1 <sup>st</sup> Draft) to the External stakeholders for comments and revision by Evaluation Team	January 2020
Finalization of the report	January 2020

78. The PSC noted OED's request to provide comments on the draft ToRs for the evaluation and to suggest
- evaluation questions (project and program),
  - case studies to see to highlight results, challenges and lessons;
  - required background information;
  - stakeholders to be interviewed; and
  - field visits by the end of July 2019.
79. The PSC noted
- the positive experience with the Mid-Term Evaluation and expressed its hope that the Terminal Evaluation will be similarly positive;
  - the need to arrange field visits in advance to allow for appropriate preparation time;
  - that the findings of the Terminal Evaluation are a prerequisite for submitting any further proposals to the GEF Secretariat;
  - that there will be an opportunity for PSC members to comment on the report;
  - that child projects of the program will be rated according to the GEF rating scheme, whereas the program will be assessed without rating; and
  - the need to assess impacts at the national level.
80. The Evaluation Manager encouraged the PSC to provide comments on the draft ToRs for the Terminal Evaluation and invited the PSC to suggest
- additional evaluation questions (project and program);
  - case studies to highlight results, challenges and lessons;
  - stakeholders to be interviewed;
  - field visits by the end of July 2019; and
- to provide relevant background information.

## V. Final activities and financial status

81. The PSC noted that contracts with partners will start to be closed down in the coming months and that activities are expected to be closed down by the end of September 2019.
82. The PMU provided an overview of the financial situation of the project and informed the PSC that by the end of the project (31 December 2019), 97% of the available funds is estimated to have been utilized. These remaining funds are expected to contribute to the work to develop the project document of a second Common Oceans ABNJ Program (including a second-phase Tuna project) once FAO receives the agreement from GEF Secretariat to proceed with the development of the new Program.
83. The PSC noted that during the implementation of the project, considerable savings were made due to
  - a. significantly lower cost of the equipment for the Electronic Monitoring Systems than was originally estimated;
  - b. changes in the implementation strategy for the legislative support for Port State Measures Agreement (Output 2.1.4) that resulted in savings;
  - c. 50% of the cost of the Global Project Coordinator was reimbursed by IOTC during the 15 months he was acting Executive Secretary of IOTC; and
  - d. reduction of the cost of the PMU over the last two years since two fixed-term positions were being replaced with consultants, and the post of Administrative Assistant was not filled after the departure of Anja Bruyneel, the incumbent.

## VI. Development of a second phase

### Consultation process for a Program design

84. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator informed the PSC that the GEF Secretariat expressed favourable views with regard to a second phase of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program including the Tuna Project. The GEF7 Programming Directions<sup>3</sup> include three objectives under the International Waters Focal Area including
  - a. Objective 1. Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities;
  - b. Objective 2. Improve management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ); and
  - c. Objective 3. Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems;
 with a total financial allocation of 463 million USD<sup>4</sup> and the distribution of funds across the three objectives still to be determined.
85. The GEF7 Programming Directions further specify that under Objective 2, the following types of investments will be supported:
  - a. Strengthen support to RFMO activities including national and regional policy setting to end IUU and overfishing and inform sustainable management of marine capture fisheries;
  - b. Policy work towards reaching agreements to reduce harmful fishing subsidies;
  - c. Collaboration among relevant international, regional and domestic bodies on area-based management in national waters and ABNJ; and
  - d. Reduce overexploitation of fish stocks and IUU, through implementation of international agreements.
86. The PSC noted that in preparation of a second phase of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program, FAO has organized two Theory of Change (ToC) workshops held in Rome from 5-7 December 2018, and from 23-25 April 2019 with a limited number of partner organizations.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-7-programming-directions>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.54.19.Rev\\_.03\\_Replenishment.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.19.Rev_.03_Replenishment.pdf)

87. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator informed the PSC that during the second ToC workshop, participants expressed different points of view with regard to the scope of the future Program, which can briefly be summarized as:
- a. The need to focus on threats to biodiversity and resources in ABNJ regardless of the sector; and
  - b. Keeping the focus on improving fisheries management, taking into account cumulative impacts and cross-sectoral aspects, as appropriate.

### **Theory of Change and Concept Note**

88. The PSC noted that through the participatory ToC workshops, a draft ToC has been developed (provided in Annex V), which will be accompanied by a narrative providing an explanation of the intervention logic, including assumptions and risks of them not being fulfilled. The PSC is invited to comment on the ToC and the narrative.
89. The PSC also noted that FAO is preparing an impact statement summarizing achievements of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program targeting mostly GEF Secretariat.
90. The PSC noted
- a. the need to mention bycatch more explicitly in the ToC;
  - b. that the ToC constitutes the key elements for phase II; and
  - c. the need to consider attribution in the ToC.

### **Status of proposals submitted and potential new partners**

91. The PSC noted that at the time of the second ToC meeting, 63 activities had been proposed, many of them relevant for tuna and deep-sea fisheries and several of them which could be consolidated.
92. The PSC noted that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) expressed interest in joining the tuna partnership.
93. The Representative of the IPNLF presented the organization's mission, work and ideas for phase II.
94. The PSC noted that being part of the partnership does not necessarily imply proposing an activity.

### **Criteria for prioritizing proposals**

95. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator informed the PSC that during the second ToC workshop, participating organizations proposed criteria which could be applied to prioritize proposals including
- a. Alignment with GEF priorities and other international initiatives;
  - b. Alignment with the draft ToC;
  - c. Feasibility;
  - d. Strength of potential impact;
  - e. Coverage of more than one sector and focus on cross-sectoral integration;
  - f. Scalability and replicability;
  - g. Relevance to more than one region;
  - h. Seeking transformational impact and global environmental benefits;
  - i. Alignment with and acceleration of existing processes;
  - j. Innovativeness;
  - k. Enhancement of cooperation among RFMOs;
  - l. Cost-effectiveness;
  - m. Contribution to strengthening RMFOs;

- n. Likelihood to happen without GEF funding;
- o. Contribution towards implementation to the ecosystem approach to fisheries;
- p. Inclusiveness.

96. The PSC noted that currently, there is a lack of guidance from the GEF Secretariat with regard to the scope of the Program and the selection criteria and process to be applied for ranking proposals according to the selection criteria.

### Seeking additional funding/ co-financing

97. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator informed the PSC that a preliminary assessment of the funding needs of the proposals received so far showed that they will likely exceed the possible funding under GEF7 and that additional resource mobilization efforts will be needed.

98. The PSC noted that the PMU is currently planning to prepare a technical package including the ToC and the narrative that could be proposed to foundations during a meeting tentatively planned to be held in Washington DC and to donor countries potentially interested in funding such activities.

### Next steps

99. The Global Tuna Project Coordinator laid out next steps towards phase II as shown in Table 6:

**Table 6:** Draft timeline for next steps towards phase II

Task	Estimated Dates
PSC commenting on impact statement, selection criteria and draft narrative for ToC draft	19 July 2019
Impact statement to GEF Secretariat	End of July 2019
Concept note including ToC and narrative and broad description of types of intervention	End of July 2019
Work on proposals including mergers, clarifications on budgets, and additional proposals	End of August 2019
Meeting with GEF Secretariat and potential additional donors	September 2019
Program Framework Document	End of February 2020
Submission of Program Framework Document to GEF Council for endorsement in April 2020; and	April 2020
Project Documents development	from June 2020 onwards

100. The PSC noted:
- a. that the Program Framework Document includes the child projects which will form the Program, but no detailed description of project outputs; and
  - b. the need to move ahead with the development of the second phase of the project, regardless of guidance on the scope of the program;
  - c. the importance of co-financing and exploring opportunities for accessing funds under the STAR allocation (e.g. for Pakistan); and
  - d. the need to take stronger advantage of the partnership and to overcome silos.

## VII. Other business

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### Cooperation with other Projects under the Common Oceans ABNJ Program

101. Miriam Balgos presented an update on progress of the Common Oceans ABNJ Capacity project, which completed the activities under the LoA with FAO in September 2018 and is currently continuing activities under co-financing provided by the Global Ocean Forum (GOF). GOF is also developing a phase II proposal in collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, GRID-Arendal aiming at facilitating cross sectoral coordination in ABNJ.
102. William Emerson presented progress of the Common Oceans ABNJ Deep-Seas project, implemented by FAO and UNEP.

### E-learning facilities available under FAO

103. Cristina Petracchi, FAO e-Learning Team Leader, presented FAO's e-learning services, which use diversified delivery methods and pedagogical models tailored to the needs of the target audiences.
104. The PSC expressed its interest in the FAO e-learning services and will explore opportunities for collaboration in phase II.

### Update on data services provided by FAO

105. The PSC noted an update on:
  - a. the work of FAO's Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) including the outcomes of a *Technical workshop on harmonization of global tuna fisheries statistics* organized by FAO in Rome from 19-22 March 2018; and of the 26th Session of the CWP from 15-19 May 2019;
  - b. the FAO AIS-based Atlas of fishing footprint and effort, and separation of catches within and outside EEZs;
  - c. the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS); and
  - d. the Global Atlas of Tuna and Tuna-like species - FIRMS Tuna Atlas.

## VIII. Closing of the meeting

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106. The PSC considered a potential final meeting in early 2020 to discuss evaluation preliminary findings and the way forward.
107. The meeting was closed on 10 July 2019 by the Co-Chairs who thanked all the participants for their support and collaboration, and the PMU of the Project.

## Annex I. List of participants

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## Annex II. Agenda of the Meeting

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- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- 2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**
- 3. PROJECT PROGRESS IN 2018-19/DISCUSSION OF OVERALL IMPACT OF THE PROJECT**
  - a. Component 1: Strengthening fisheries management
  - b. Component 2: Reducing IUU fishing
  - c. Component 3: Reducing ecosystem impacts of tuna fishing
  - d. Component 4: Dissemination of information and M&E
    - i. Project communication and knowledge management.
    - ii. M&E final reports
- 4. TERMINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT/PROGRAM**
- 5. FINAL ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL STATUS**
- 6. DEVELOPMENT OF A SECOND PHASE**
  - a. Consultation process for a Program design
  - b. Theory of Change and Concept Note
  - c. Status of proposals submitted and potential new partners
  - d. Criteria for prioritizing proposals
  - e. Seeking additional funding/ co-financing
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS**
  - i. Cooperation with other Projects under the Common Oceans ABNJ Program
  - ii. E-learning facilities available under FAO
  - iii. Update on data services provided by FAO

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## Annex III. List of documents

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### Meeting documents

<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_01</a>	Provisional Agenda
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_02</a>	List of Documents
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_03</a>	Component 1: Strengthening of sustainable fisheries management, including precautionary approach and ecosystem approach to fisheries - Summary of progress -
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_04</a>	Component 2: Strengthening and Harmonizing Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to Address Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing (IUU) - Summary of progress
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_05</a>	Component 3: Reducing Ecosystem Impacts of Tuna Fishing Activities - Summary of Progress
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_06</a>	Component 4: Component 4: Information and Best Practices Dissemination and M&E - Summary of progress -
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_07</a>	Review of budgetary situation
<a href="#">ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_08</a>	Terms of Reference for the Terminal Evaluation of the “Common Oceans ABNJ Program” and its child projects

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## Information documents

<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_01</b>	IOTC: Yellowfin Tuna Management Procedure Evaluation Update June 2019
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_02</b>	IOTC: Bigeye Tuna Management Procedure Evaluation Update June 2019
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_03</b>	IMCSN: Report of the 3rd Workshop of the Tuna Compliance Network 22 – 24 February 2019, Bangkok, Thailand
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_04</b>	BirdLife South Africa: Report of the Final Seabird Bycatch Assessment Workshop, 25 February -1 March 2019, Skukuza, South Africa
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_05</b>	ISSF: Report of the International Workshop on Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries, Rome, Italy, 12-13 March 2019
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_06</b>	Report of the second programmatic Theory of Change workshop for the Common Oceans ABNJ Program, 23-25 April 2019 Rome, Italy
<b>ABNJ_Tuna_2019_PSC_Inf_06</b>	Shana K. Miller, Alejandro Anganuzzi, Doug S. Butterworth, Campbell R. Davies, Greg P. Donovan, Amanda Nickson, Rebecca A. Rademeyer, and Victor Restrepo: Improving communication: the key to more effective MSE Processes. <i>Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences</i> , 2019, 76(4): 643-656, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2018-0134">https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2018-0134</a>

## Annex IV. Progress against project indicators

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019
<b>Project objective:</b> to achieve efficiency and sustainability in tuna production and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ, through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach in tuna fisheries	Number of stocks of major commercial tuna species which are subject to overfishing	<b>13 out of 23 stocks</b> PO-ALB-N, AO-ALB-S, AO-ALB-M, IO-ALB, EPO-BET, WPO-BET, AO-BET, PO-PBF, AO-BFT-W, SH-SBT, EPO-YFT, WPO-YFT, AO-YFT	Decrease	<b>5 out of 23 stocks</b> EPO-BET, AO-BET, PO-PBF, EPO-YFT, IO-YFT
	Joint initiatives of tuna RFMOs addressing priorities identified in the Kobe framework and by t-RFMO members	Kobe MSE and BYC WGs established, funds lacking	Support to at least three initiatives	<b>Total of 4:</b> - Joint t-RFMO meeting on EBFM implementation, held 2016, second meeting planned for September 2019 - Joint t-RFMO meetings on FADs, held in 2017 and 2019 - Joint Working group on MSE, two meetings held in 2016 and 2018 - Tuna Compliance Network, three workshops held in 2017, 2018, 2019 and ongoing online.
	Major commercial stocks of targeted tuna species with harvest control rules adopted	<b>1 stock:</b> SBT	6 stocks	<b>6 stocks:</b> SBT, EPO-BET, EPO-YFT, EPO-SKJ, IO-SKJ, AO-ALB-N  Workplans and timelines for adoption of management procedures have been adopted at ICCAT, IOTC, and WCPFC.  CCSBT is revising their management procedure for southern bluefin tuna

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019
	Overall compliance in IOTC, ICCAT and WCPFC (CCSBT and IATTC do not produce overall compliance scores)	<b>IOTC 2012:</b> 46% overall compliance <b>ICCAT 2012</b> Percentage of CPCs with No compliance issues: 20 Some degree of non-compliance: 25 Serious issues of non-compliance: 7 <b>WCPFC 2013:</b> Compliant CCMs: 15 Non-compliant CCMs: 21 Not applicable CCMs: 3	Improved overall compliance	<b>IOTC 2018:</b> 68% overall compliance <b>ICCAT 2017:</b> Percentage of CPCs with: No compliance issues: 16 Some degree of non-compliance: 39 Serious issues of non-compliance: 1 <b>WCPFC 2017:</b> NA (system changed)
	Number of new tuna RFMO CMMs or data rules addressing bycatch issues	<b>NA</b>	New measures	<b>Sharks: 5 in total:</b> 1 Shark CMM (IATTC, Res C-16-06) 2 Shark observer data improvement initiatives (WCPFC and IATTC) 2 Shark data harmonization initiatives (WCPFC and IOTC) <b>Turtles: 1 in total:</b> 1 turtle CMM requires mitigation for all shallow set longline fisheries (WCPFC, (WCPFC, CMM 2018-04) <b>Non-Entangling FADs: 5 in total:</b> ICCAT (Recs. 15-01 and 16-01) IOTC gradual adoption (Res 15/08) IATTC encourages (Resolution C-15-03) WCPFC requirement from 2020 onwards (CMM 2018-01)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019
<b>IO1.</b> Elements of Harvest strategies for selected commercial tuna stocks developed	Progress towards the full adoption of harvest strategies/management procedures for stocks of targeted species	No development or development of harvest strategies in very early stages in tuna RFMOs, except CCSBT where a HS is adopted.	Significant progress for 10 stocks	<b>6 completed:</b> SBT, EPO-BET, EPO-YFT, EPO-SKJ, IO-SKJ, AO-ALB-N <b>8 ongoing:</b> AO-BFT, IO-BET, IO-YFT, IO-ALB, IO-SWO, WPO-YFT, WPO-BET, WPO-SKJ
	Number of proposed/adopted CMMs containing elements of harvest strategies/management procedures	Discussions on HS/MPs in very initial stages in all t-RFMOs (except CCSBT). <b>ICCAT:</b> 1 relevant proposal/ 1 adopted CMM before 2014 <b>WCPFC:</b> 0 relevant proposals before 2014 <b>IOTC:</b> 0 relevant proposals before 2014 <b>IATTC:</b> 0 relevant proposals before 2014	Increase	<b>ICCAT:</b> 9 relevant proposals/ 8 adopted CMMs <b>WCPFC:</b> 13 relevant proposals/ 2 adopted CMMs <b>IOTC:</b> 9 relevant proposals/ 4 adopted CMMs <b>IATTC:</b> 7 proposals/ 3 adopted
<b>IO2.</b> Roadmaps to operationalise EAFM/EBFM in t-RFMOs developed and submitted for adoption	Regional model roadmaps for EAFM/EBFM operationalization developed and submitted to t-RFMOs	Management frameworks address target stocks but do not address associated species and ecosystems.	Developed and submitted in one t-RFMO	Some elements have been adopted, but not as a comprehensive framework (all t-RFMOs).
<b>IO3.</b> Improved shark fisheries management framework (proposed) across the Pacific	Improvements in management of shark bycatch issues in the two Pacific tuna RFMOs (and beyond, if the project was involved)	NA	2 new processes, initiatives and guidelines addressing shark bycatch issues in the two Pacific tuna RFMOs (and beyond, if the project was involved)	<b>Total of 6:</b> - Safe release guidelines for sharks (other than whale sharks) (WCPFC, 2018) - Safe release guidelines for mantas and mobulids (WCPFC, 2017) - Inter-sessional Working Group–Sharks established to develop a comprehensive shark CMM (WCPFC, 2017) - Designation of manta and mobulids as key species (WCPFC, 2016) - Safe release guidelines for whale sharks (WCPFC, 2015) - Central American Port Sampling continued under IATTC funding (IATTC, 2018)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019
IO4. Bycatch mitigation best practices adopted by RFMOs and/or targeted tuna vessels	Improved bycatch data from the Northern Indian Ocean gillnet fishery	Initial report on the Northern Indian Ocean gillnet fishery highlights significant data gaps.	Data reported to IOTC enabling IOTC to estimate the bycatch in those fisheries.	WWF has shared the data from the crew-observer/logbook program and IOTC has provided inputs on the need to revise database design. IOTC Secretariat has reviewed the data being reported by Pakistan on the revised catch time series and intends to prepare a joint paper, documenting this and the criteria used for the revision of official catch estimates.
	Percentage of Pakistani tuna gillnet vessels with on-board crew observer completing logbooks	No Pakistani tuna gillnet vessels with on-board crew observer completing logbooks	15% of Pakistani tuna gillnet vessels with on-board crew observer completing logbooks	An <b>estimated 12-15% Pakistani tuna gillnet vessels</b> with on-board crew observer completing logbooks. This coverage should be seen with reference to mandatory observer coverage of 5% for IOTC member countries.
	Number of references in BMIS and number of users and page-views	Information is limited to WCPFC with significant data and knowledge gaps for all ocean regions. No user statistics available.	New information on bycatch mitigation effectiveness for turtles and seabirds available in BMIS and being used.	The BMIS website, re-launched in May 2017, currently includes ~1,900 references from all oceans and has been widely used by more than 13,800 unique users who have viewed more than 50,200 pages. Visitation rates have risen steadily since the re-launch (893 visitors per month now versus 281 previously), propelled by Google selecting BMIS for a high-profile “snippet” feature at the top of search results for “bycatch management”
	Level of compliance of purse seine vessels in the ISSF PVR with requirement 3.5 for non-entangling FADs	No data on use of non-entangling FADs available.	Increase	ISSF Conservation measure 3.5 requiring transactions with vessels that use only non-entangling FADs became effective in October 2017.  In 2019, 99.8% of the 554 purse seine vessels listed in the ISSF Proactive Vessel Registry (where this measure is applicable) are committed to implementing the measure on non-entangling FADs within 12 months of adoption. .
	Percentage of tuna longline vessels of targeted fleets in IOTC and ICCAT implementing best practice seabird mitigation measures	South Africa (15 active vessels): 100%, high confidence Brazil (58 active vessels): 5%, medium confidence Korea (10 active vessels): 20%, medium confidence Namibia (7 active vessels) NA,	40%	<b>2018 data:</b> South Africa (46 active vessels): 100%, high confidence Brazil: data were not available at the time of reporting, but use of measures is considered to be very low Korea (13 active vessels): 100%, high confidence Namibia (10 active vessels) 80%, high confidence Overall uptake in targeted vessels: Uncertain at this time

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s)	Baseline level	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019
		no data available Overall uptake in targeted vessels: 22%		
IO5. Improved operational capabilities through improved MCS tools and better intelligence integration	Percentage of fishing operations in target countries covered by fully functioning EMS	0% (Ghana)  0% (Fiji)	100% of fishing operations on Ghanaian tuna purse seiners covered by fully functioning EMS  50% of fishing operations on Fijian tuna longliners covered by fully functioning EMS.	<b>14 out of 14</b> of active tuna purse seine vessels representing 100% of fishing operations (Ghana)  <b>50 out of 89</b> active longline vessels in Fiji representing >50% of fishing operations
	Inclusion of requirements for EMS in fishing license conditions for targeted domestic fleets in pilot countries	No such requirements.	EMS required in one country	<b>No such requirements.</b> Review of legislation is ongoing in Ghana with the possibility that EMS becomes mandatory. FAO assisted Fiji with revising legislation to broaden scope of the use of electronic means, which will be subject to consultations and possible adoption (with EMS as mandatory)
	Number of observer incident reports generated by FFA regional surveillance and number of Vessel of Interest Reports identified through different sources of information	No such reports.	400 observer incident reports and 100 of Vessel of Interest Reports.	<b>Over 1,240 observer incident reports</b>
	Strengthened MCS toolbox (including improved CLAV, PSM templates, CDS Design options, MCS best practices) to fight IUU promoted across tuna RFMOs	CLAV exists, but is not updated regularly. Limited knowledge of CDS and PSMA legal requirements in countries.	Improved data quality in the CLAV (duplicates eliminated, increased completion of minimum data requirements) PSMA legal templates published and widely used in FAO PSMA-related capacity building. Design options for development of	CLAV updated daily with improved data quality.  PSMA legal templates completed and widely used in FAO PSMA-related capacity building.  Design options for development of catch documentation schemes published.

			catch documentation schemes published.			
<b>Project objective and Outcomes</b>	<b>Description of indicator(s)</b>	<b>Baseline level</b>	<b>Mid-term target</b>	<b>End-of-project target</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2019</b>	
<b>IO6.</b> Strengthened capacity of compliance officers in member states via capacity building and mechanisms for knowledge and experience sharing	Establishment a global competency-based certification program for tuna MCS embedded in a university program	No such program exists.	Not identified	Business plan that identifies potential financial backers, agreement on the hosting of the course at one university with a commitment (and resources) to run it for 5 years.	No such program exists. Discussions ongoing with FFA and several universities and review of current curriculum by FFA should form the basis for the business plan.	
	Number of MCS course-certified national fisheries staff from WCPFC region (FFA course)	0 staff certified	Not identified	70 staff certified	70 staff certified	

## Annex V. Draft Theory of Change for proposed Common Oceans ABNJ Program under GEF-7 (linkages simplified, and assumptions and drivers not shown)

