



## Western and Central Pacific Ocean Purse Seine Tuna (Dongwon) Harvest Control Rules and Harvest Strategy Position Statement – November 2020

Effective management measures, consistent with advice from the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC), are needed to maintain fishing mortality and biomass at sustainable levels for the key tuna stocks exploited in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). Specifically, for this Western and Central Pacific Ocean FAD-associated purse seine tuna (Dongwon) FIP, WCPO stocks of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna are important to have robust harvest control rules (HCRs)/management procedures (HCRs) and harvest strategies (HS) so the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Standard can be met.

We as a FIP with an certified component to the fishery (free-school associated purse seine), advocate the WCPFC to adhere to the committed timeframe as indicated in the latest harvest strategy workplan under CMM 2014-06 (WCPFC16, issued May 8, 2020)<sup>1</sup> of adopting a management procedure (HCR) for skipjack by 2022, and agreement of a target reference point (TRP) for bigeye and yellowfin by 2021, followed by development of management procedures in 2022.

**Table 1. Stock specific management requirements**

WCPO tuna stocks management requirements for MSC SG80
WCPO yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack need a harvest strategy that is responsive to the state of the stock, with and the elements of the harvest strategy (monitoring, stock assessment, harvest control rules and management actions) working together to achieve stock management objectives.
WCPO yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack need a harvest control rule that ensures that the exploitation rate is reduced as the PRI is approached and is expected to keep the stock fluctuating around the target level and robust to the main uncertainties. The tools used to implement the HCR should be effective in achieving the required exploitation levels.

*Signed in agreement and behalf of all Western and Central Pacific Ocean FAD-associated purse seine tuna (Dongwon) FIP participants – November 2020.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc16-att-h/indicative-work-plan-adoption-harvest-strategies-under-cmm-2014-06>