
IO ALB and YFN discussion with Glen from Pew

寄件者 Metilda Chu 朱淑君 <metilda@fcf.com.tw>

日期 週二 2026/3/17 下午 04:49

收件者 Ray Clarke <ray.clarke@bumblebee.com>; Hao Mai 麥家豪 <haomai@fcf.com.tw>; Howard Tsai 蔡丞皓 <howard@fcf.com.tw>

副本 Carolyn Lee 李佳紋 <carolyn@fcf.com.tw>; Amanda Hamilton <AmandaHamilton@fcf.com.tw>

Hi all,

Here is a summary from our earlier talk with Glen/Pew. Also big thanks for Amanda's inputs and guidance-

ALB

- IO ALB MSE has been under development for many years; early models using stock assessments failed due to poor IO data quality, leading to a shift about 5-6 years ago to an ABC (Acceptable Biological Catch) modelling approach.
- The management procedures modelling work is conducted by Mosqueira Sanchez, Iago (iago.mosqueira@wur.nl) as a contracted scientist, with in-kind support from Rich Hillary (CSIRO).
- The expectation had been to finalize a candidate MP for adoption in 2026, but the technical work was delayed due to health issues affecting Iago, and the original contract expired before completion (IOTC still has these remaining funds on hand).
- Iago proposed a new contract (abt 100K EUR) to complete the work, but the Secretariat (and Pew/Ocean Foundation/some IOTC members) are cautious due to the previous delay/failure to deliver. They acknowledge that he was legitimately unwell, but dropped the project management ball by not sorting out a contingency plan to ensure the work was completed.
- The current model is bespoke, so it will be difficult for a new contractor to pick-up where Iago left off and complete the work. They would need to start from scratch developing a new model and this would create further significant delays.
- A likely compromise is a reduced scope contract for Iago (probably down to 50K EUR) focusing only on the essential modelling tasks to finalise the first candidate MP (which won't be perfect, but good enough to start with); additional technical work could then be done for during the second review cycle.
- Around 10K EUR may remain from the original contract. Pew has been exploring additional funding options and will contribute some funding assistance. Industry contributions would help to fund any remaining gap. Glen indicated that funding support is the best material way that industry can help to keep things moving along. Advocacy letters will largely just serve to meet evidence requirements for MSC certification conditions.
- In short - MP adoption in 2026 is not possible; the earliest realistic timeline is Commission adoption in 2027 - If adopted in 2027, this could still align with our MSC audit timelines and avoid suspension.

YFN

- 2024 stock assessment has uncertainties but is considered sufficient to support management advice.
- The MSE process has restarted, with modeling work led by AZTI and supported by ISSF funding.
- There is cautious optimism that a MP could be ready for adoption next year.
- Compared with ALB, YFN receives much stronger political attention within IOTC because more members depend on the stock.

Influence within IOTC

- Taiwan - Taiwan has the strongest interest in albacore of all IOTC players.
- EU - One of the most influential members in IOTC and often plays a key role in advancing technical discussions like HS. The EU delegation is frustrated with the albacore situation and has ongoing engagement with Pew on the issue (EU Head of Delegation = Marco Valetta).

- EU - The EU has historically been a good ally for Taiwan on matters of mutual interest, seeking their input across the floor as an 'Invited Expert'.
- US - While the US is not an IOTC member, their observer statements carry a lot more weight politically in discussions than NGO observers. US typically doesn't send a rep to IOTC or if they do, sends fairly junior reps. In the years when they've sent more experienced delegates, US interventions have carried some weight.

Next steps

- The MSE Task Force (which is a subgroup of the Working Party on Methods) will meet next week on 23 March and discuss a pathway forward for ALB. Recommendations from this meeting will be made to the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) which is scheduled to meet on 9 May (which would make a decision on Iago's contract).
- We'll schedule a follow-up meeting with Glen sometime during the first week of April to hear what transpired from the MSE Task Force meeting (for streamlining comms, Shana could join this meeting too, since Ocean Foundation engages Pew to progress harvest strategy matters and Glen leads on IOTC).

Metilda Chu 朱淑君

[FCF Co., Ltd. 豐群水產股份有限公司](#)

TEL: +886-7-3391636 Ext. 353 | metilda@fcf.com.tw

高雄市前鎮區民權二路8號28樓

28th Fl., No. 8, Min Chuan 2nd Rd., Chien Chen Dist.,
Kaohsiung City, 80661, Taiwan (R.O.C.)