

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

NINETEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 3 - 7 August 1987)

**Report of Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish  
Working Group**

(Paper Prepared by the Secretariat)

**Background**

1. Working Paper SPC/Fisheries 19/WP.1 was used as the basis for a productive discussion on the SCTB. The delegate of Western Samoa, chairman of last years Regional Technical Meeting, was elected chairman of the Working Group. The results of the discussions are contained in the revised Terms of Reference, Composition and Procedures presented below.

**Terms of Reference**

2. The intended role of this Committee is purely advisory and consultative. Its work will assist in the conduct of pelagic fisheries research through the provision of expertise, information and technical advice.

3. The Committee shall advise the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries on biological research on stocks which support oceanic fisheries for tuna and billfish in the SPC region by:

- (i) assisting with the rigorous scientific review of the work of the TBAP and suggesting improvements to the scope and techniques of the TBAP's research;
- (ii) assisting with and advising on the acquisition of relevant data to the TBAP, specifically that relating to fishing activities on the high seas areas surrounding the EEZs of SPC member countries;
- (iii) arranging collaboration between SPC staff and outside workers on problems of mutual interest.

### Composition

4. It is expected that the composition of the Committee would vary according to the specific tasks before it. In general, however, it shall consist of the following members:

- (i) Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme Co-ordinator or his representative;
- (ii) A representative from the Forum Fisheries Agency;
- (iii) Scientists from countries with a commitment to tuna fishing in the SPC region, specifically including both Island states and distant water fishing nations;
- (iv) Technical experts invited by the Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme Co-ordinator as necessary to assist in analysis of specific problems.

### Procedures

5. Costs of attendance (travel and per diem) by SPC invitees will be met out of Tuna Programme funds.

6. A draft agenda will be prepared by the Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme Coordinator, incorporating recommendations of the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries, and will be circulated well in advance of SCTB meetings to countries for comment and additions by Fisheries Officers.

7. The findings of the Committee will be summarized and presented to the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries as part of the Tuna Programme Co-ordinator's annual report.

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