

**FFA**

FORUM FISHERIES COMMITTEE
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH MEETING

25-28 MAY 2021

Agenda Item:	10
Paper Number:	<i>FFC118-WP.07</i>
Title:	Implementation of Regional Longline Strategy

Summary:

The Regional Longline Strategy is now in implementation following its endorsement in August 2020. This paper presents the associated Action Plan including timeframes and estimated costing, and the sequencing of activities.

A brief update on what has been implemented so far and the priorities set out for 2021 are provided for the Committee's discussions on the way forward.

Recommendations:

The Committee is invited to:

- i. Note the additional information provided with regard to sequencing of activities, costing estimates and funding support; and
- ii. Note the workplan for the year 2021-2022.

Background:

FFCMIN16 in June 2019 adopted the Regional Longline Strategy to guide the work of FFA members in further advancing shared longline fisheries objectives, including the need for FFA members to establish zone-based limits for longline fishing within EEZs, and to phase out flag-based limits in WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures. Members and the Secretariat were tasked to develop an Action Plan for the Strategy. The Strategy provides a guide for members and the Secretariat to strategically address the challenges of management of longline fisheries in our region and the support required (technical and financial) for doing so.

The Action Plan was developed and endorsed at FFC115 in August 2020 for implementation. The Plan identifies key activities and targets and sets actions to work towards achieving the broad objectives of the Strategy within certain timeframes. The Action Plan is considered a living document that can be adjusted to reflect changing circumstances or new initiatives relevant to achieving the broad objectives of the Strategy.

Members tasked the Secretariat late last year to provide a clear layout of the Plan activities, including the sequencing and funding of activities with realistic timeframes for ease of tracking and monitoring of progress.

Introduction:

This paper provides a brief update on the implementation of the Action Plan and the key activities earmarked for 2021-2022 for the members' information going forward.

A copy of the Action Plan is provided under Annex A which includes updated timeframes as well as costing estimates and funding information where available. A diagrammatic representation of sequencing of activities to provide a guide to the dependencies and linkages of the activities in the Plan is provided in Annex B.

Key Issues:

1. Implementations of the Plan

Since August last year, FFA members have carried out the following activities with the support of the Secretariat:

- a. Two workshops (30th Oct 2020 & 8-9th Apr 2021) on the development of Zone-based limits for South Pacific Albacore.
- b. FFA Preparation and WCPFC SPA Roadmap workshop November 2020.
- c. Progress of Tropical Longline Issues as part of the two FFA Tropical Tuna Measure workshops in Oct 2020 and February 2021.
- d. Support for 2 South Pacific Group meetings in Oct 2020 and Apr 2021 on their work relating to LL fisheries.
- e. Progress made at MCSWG14 on EM, ER, Transshipment and Observer Programme improvement, within the FFA membership in Mar 2021.
- f. Continued cooperation with PNAO on LL related matters.
- g. National support for Solomons, PNG and Tonga on LL related matters.

2. Workplan and Funding Support

Annex A provides the estimated costing for work plan activities and the timeframes that FFC115 endorsed for the activities. As noted, the Plan is a living document and the Secretariat will report on the progress of this Plan at the next FFC meeting.

Annex B depicts the layout of activities in the Plan with the primary purpose of illustrating the sequence of activities and providing additional indications of the dependencies and linkages of activities.

There are sufficient funds available to support the Action Plan at both the regional and national level for the next three years.

3. Priorities for 2021-2022

The main activities to be progressed over the coming year are:

1. FFA members establish limits for longline fisheries within their EEZs that can provide a basis over time for integrated management by FFA members of Longline fisheries within their waters.
2. Establishment of effective legally binding agreements that commit FFA members to collective action and hold individual members to account for associated commitments and obligations.
3. Define the rights of FFA members to longline fisheries on the high seas.
4. Ensure high seas limits for DWFN fleets are compatible with zone-based EEZ limits.
5. Drive the WCPFC work on EM Standards
6. Improve HMTCs on LL fisheries access
7. Continuous support for subregional and national requests for LL fisheries matters.

Note that progress on the above activities may be subject to any limitations caused by the unavoidable virtual nature in which our work is carried out for 2021.

Annex A:

REGIONAL LONGLINE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN						
Objective 1						
Clear identification of zone based limits by FFA members for longline fisheries within EEZs and development and implementation of associated sub-regional management arrangements						
Activity Stream (goals)	Targets (what)	Actions (how)	Timeframe (when)	Revise Timeframe (2021 - onward)	Costing Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources
1.1 FFA members to establish zone based catch and/or effort limits for longline fisheries within their EEZs that can provide a basis over time for integrated management by FFA members of LL fisheries within their waters.	1.1(a) Clear identification of zone based limits by FFA members for longline fisheries within EEZs and development and implementation of associated sub-regional management arrangements.	Plan for virtual meetings in 2020 and face to face workshops as soon as travel restrictions permit.	2020 - for other FFA members- Ongoing but must be recognised as a high priority for achievement of other RLLS objectives.	FFA SPA workshops now earmarked virtually for Apr-Jun 21 and Oct-Dec21		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project *50,000.00 for FFA members face to face workshop
	1.1(b) Ongoing improvement of the LL-VDS by PNA members.	b) PNA LL VDS participants have established national zone-based LL effort limits; and from 2020 are applying these as allocated limits by vessel day sales/allocations.	Limits in place for PNALL VDS Participants	2021		SPLL project *10,000.00 available to promote compatibility of sub-regional management arrangements by PNA and others.
		Undertake analyses / modelling (scientific and economic) at national and regional levels to inform management advice for longline target stocks.		2022		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project/FFA Annual Budget

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		The Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO) economic model is used to inform PNA LL VDS management.		2022		PNAO (for estimate costs) SPLL Project - funding for national capacity building, system and process building.
1.2 Establishment of effective, legally binding agreements that commit FFA members to collective action and that hold individual FFA members to account for associated commitments and obligations.	To make progress on an agreement among FFA Members in relation to the respective zone based catch and/or effort limits of FFA Members for South Pacific albacore.	1. Progress arrangement discussions at the TKA level and with SPG members to develop the needed agreements to underpin zone base limits for the LL fisheries.	2021	2021-2022		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project
	Ongoing improvement of the PNA - LL VDS	2. PNA LL VDS participants are party to PNA legally binding arrangements to apply: i) national LL effort limits and ii) effort limit monitoring through VMS/FIMS and have committed to applying ER from Jan 2021.		Ongoing		PNAO (for estimate costs). Funding available under SPLL project
		Progress on this activity is dependent on agreement on the respective zone based limits of Members under 1.1 above.		**		
1.3 Promote and strengthen responsible sub-regional longline arrangements to achieve the longline		Plan for virtual meetings in 2020 and face to face workshops as soon as travel restrictions permit.	2020 - 2021	Ongoing		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project
					5,000.00	

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development aspirations of all FFA Members.		Review Initial 5-year PNA LL VDS TAE and PAEs by 2021.		2021		PNAO (for estimate costs) Funding
1.4 Ensure compatibility between the Longline VDS and other zone-based subregional longline management arrangements.		FFA/SPC to ensure data collections/monitoring systems are compatible with existing PNA FIMs are in place to inform these works.	2021 - 2022	2022-2023		Funding available under the SPLL Project, OFMPII&III
		Prioritise the assessments/study on the requirements to carry out the 'compatibility' work and progress through collaborations between FFA/SPC/PNAO.				SPLL Project
		FFA/SPC/PNAO to look at compatible data fields to support the compatibility work.				SPLL Project
					300,000.00	
1.5 Collaboration between FFA members to ensure that zone-based limits are recognised in relevant WCPFC CMMs.		FFA members to actively lead the work of the SPA Roadmap WG and the TT CMM Review.	2021 - 2022	2021		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project
		Virtual meeting in 2020 in advance of MOC which will be key point for finalising FFA negotiation strategy for WCPFC17.		Ongoing for 2021		
					5,000.00	
1.6 Work to establish mechanisms that provide for transferability of use rights		Transferability is provided for in the PNA LL VDS.	2021 - 2023	2022-2023		PNAO (for estimate costs)
					25,000.00	

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between FFA members as a mechanism for maximising value and economic rent.		Use lessons learnt from existing regional agreements for stronger cooperation.		Ongoing		
		Progress the development of transferability mechanisms in conjunction with agreement of zone based limits for allocation discussions and negotiations.		2022		SPLL Project for potential consultancy
		Consider relevant factors such as stock sustainability, economic viability of the fisheries and Climate Change on these negotiations.		2022		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLL Project
SUBTOTAL					390,000.00	
Objective 2						
Limitation and regulation of longline fishing on the high seas						
Activity Stream (WCPFC)		Actions (how)	Timeframe (when)	Revise Tmeframe (2021 - onward)	Costing Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources

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2.1. Ensure high seas limits for DWFN fleets that are compatible with zone based EEZ limits.		<i>For the SPA Longline Fishery:</i> 1. Start with a 2 day workshop to determine and develop FFA internal agreements on Limits - Develop strategy to take the negotiations at the WCFPC level. 2. Lead the work of the SPA Roadmap WG at WCFPC. 3. Develop a revised SPA CMM.	2020 - 2022	2022-2023		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLP Project *50,000.00 for a face to face workshop in 2021.
		<i>For the Tropical Longline Fishery:</i> 1) FFA internal preparations on the revision of the Tropical Tuna CMM WCPFC17. - Develop strategy and positions for the WCPFC negotiations.		2021-2023		
						50,500.00
2.2 Define the rights of FFA members to longline fisheries on the high seas.		FFA Members to prepare through virtual meetings that lead up to MOC.	2020 -2023	2021- 2023		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLP Project
						5,000.00
2.3 Work to fill data coverage gaps with respect to high seas longlining.		Virtual meetings in 2020 leading up to SPAWG.	2020-2023	Ongoing		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by SPLP Project
						5,000.00

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2.4 Strong regulation and monitoring of transshipment.		Push ahead the work of the Transshipment WG to revise CMM for stronger transshipment monitoring on High Seas.	2020-2021		5,000.00	FFA/SPC staff costs covered by OFMP Project
		FFA members to push for engagement of DWFNs in the IWG to start the work plan set out towards developing an improved CMM for Transshipment.		2021-2023		FFA/SPC staff costs covered by OFMP Project
Standards of EM agreed in WCPFC CMM by 2021.		Progress the work on the EM Policy through its adoption and implementation; and the DCC work on EM Data Standards.	ER to be compulsory by 2022.	2021 - 2022		
		Active participation in the EREM WG in 2020 - focussing on developing a new CMM with reference to minimum standards. FFA members ensure the new CMM on the Regional EM Programme (REMP) is in line with FFA's EM policy.	Standards of EM agreed in WCPFC CMM by 2021.	2021 - 2022		
		Finalise and implement Regional PSM and CDS frameworks. Development of Action Plans and timeframes.	2021-2023	2021- 2022		Funding source from PSM &CDEC projects
		National administrations to advance PSM in accordance with Regional PSM Framework.	2022-2023	2022- 2023		Funding source PSM & CDEC projects

2,800,000.00

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		Progress ER work for compulsory implementation by 2022.	Ongoing	2022		
2.6 Harness the collective leverage of FFA members over fishing activity within our EEZs to drive strengthened management of longline fisheries.		Consider HMTCs for longline vessels that would apply out of zone as well as within EEZs.	Incorporate into negotiation positions for WCPFC in 2020 and ongoing.	Ongoing	100,000.00	Funding source OFMPII
2.7 Mount a public campaign against unconstrained high seas longline fishing activity.		Collaborate with outside actors through various campaigns, including traceability, consumer demands for sustainably caught fish and advocate for severe consequences to IUU on High Seas.	Commence discussions with NGOs in 2020.	2021 - onwards	5,000.00	SPLL Project
		Regular regional and national public campaigns to highlight the IUU fishing on the high seas issues at main regional and national events.				
2.8 Raise the issue of management of high seas longline fishing in broader international contexts including BBNJ, SDGs, climate change adaptation.		FFA Secretariat to provide the needed advice on LL tuna fisheries for our members during these negotiations	Ongoing		5,000.00	SPLL Project

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Subtotal					2,975,500.00	
Objective 3						
Implementation of harvest strategies that are consistent with the management frameworks being established in EEZs and the limits on the high seas, as well as the interface with purse-seine fisheries (bigeye and yellowfin)						
Activity Stream			Timeframe (when)	Revise Tmeframe (2021 - onward)	Costing Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources
3.1 Pursue biomass or CPUE-based Target Reference Points for Bigeye and Yellowfin that provide the basis for effectively managing fisheries to levels that promote economic and biological sustainability of longline fisheries without unduly compromising purse-seine fisheries managed primarily under the Skipjack TRP.		FFA members to spearhead the work on developing and establishing TRPs for BYE and YFT and maintain active participation in Harvest Strategies discussions at relevant meetings.	Ongoing	Ongoing	100,000.00	SPLL/OFMP projects *100,000.00 - for a series of workshops if face to face
		Call for targeted assessment on the implications of these TRPS on the viability of the SKJ PS and LL fisheries.			20,000.00	SPLL/OFMP projects
		Better understand the 'multi-species management concepts'.			100,000.00	SPLL project
Subtotal					220,000.00	
Objective 4						
Development and implementation of strengthened monitoring, and associated information systems, to support integrated management of longline fisheries						
Activity Stream		Actions (how)	Timeframe (when)	Revise Tmeframe (2021 - onward)	Costing Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources
4.1 Pursue full implementation of electronic		Adopt ER in national regulations and access agreements.	Progress the work for the full implementation	2021		

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reporting, as an FFA EEZ licence and flag State authorisation condition, and drive agreement of WCPFC standards for ER for all longline vessels operating in WCPO.		PNA LL VDS participants have committed to adopt legally binding commitments to apply ER in their EEZ by Jan 2021.	of the ER by 2021.			SPLL project
4.2 Drive the agreement of WCFPC-wide Objectives and Standards for electronic monitoring of longliners.		Implement the EM policy - to promote the adoption of EM as a compulsory requirement for all longline vessels licenced by WCPFC flag States to fish and/or tranship on the high seas.	Drive the discussions and work of the EREM WG in 2020.			
		Assistance to FFA member countries in the adoption and implementation of national EM policies and strategies through review of national legislation, development of data sharing arrangements and associated capacity building.		Ongoing		OFMP project * Figure from output 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 of OFMP3 budget
		Promote the best-practice analysis and utilisation of EM compliance-related data for regional decision-making.				
		Support FFA member country efforts to integrate EM with existing MCS tools.				

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		Provide advice and support to Members in EM cost-benefit analyses and the adoption of cost-effective data viewing management systems.				
4.3 Pursue heightening observer coverage rates for LL vessels operating in EEZs and/or the high seas, particularly in absence of EM.		Strengthen national cost recoveries mechanisms to boost coverage of observers for members with low coverage.	Ongoing	Ongoing		
		Improve the observer working environment on LL vessels including considering ways to strengthen the CMM on protection of observers and ensuring safety during these uncertain times with the pandemic.				
		Consider expanding/transitioning the roles of observers with training on data analysis from EM systems, given their skills as observers and expertise with these data types.				
					110,000.00	
4.4 Support the further development of PNA FIMS for management of the Longline VDS.		Strengthen FIMS and data monitoring for LL VDS.	Ongoing	Ongoing		

FFA Programs

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4.5 Support the development of cost-recovered inter-compatible IMS for non-VDS participants.		Develop a LL fisheries monitoring system to monitor limits set by members.	2020-2022	2021 - 2023		
4.6 Work to ensure integration of ER, EM, CDS, Port State Measures, VMS, transshipment and observer reporting across longline fisheries in WCPO.		Ensure these tools are captured within the agreed management arrangements and associated systems.	Ongoing			
		Revise LL CMMs to include stringent reporting requirements incorporating these tools across the relevant fisheries, with a focus on high seas..		2023		
Subtotal					1,110,000.00	
Objective 5						
Stamp out human rights abuses and address poor labour conditions in longline fisheries						
Activity Stream		Actions (how)	Timeframe (when)	Revise Tmeframe (2021 - onward)	Costing Estimate (USD)	Funding Sources
5.1 Work to develop and implement a MTC on minimum standards based on Work in Fishing Convention.		Support members in revising national legislations and policies to adopt and implement the MTCs minimum standards on labour on fishing vessels.	Ongoing	Ongoing		
		FFA Secretariat continues to provide support to Members to make required amendments to regulatory frameworks at national level.				
					1,000.00	

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5.2 Build on the WCPFC Resolution agreed in 2018 to keep the spotlight on this issue in WCPFC.		Push for a binding CMM on labour standards for WCPFC.	2021-2022	2023	1,000.00	
5.3 Raise the profile of this issue and FFA's position in the international media.		Maximise utilisation of social media and other media outlets through press releases/articles to highlight the work of the FFA.	Ongoing	Ongoing		
		Effective representations from FFA to international and regional Ocean related meetings/conferences to raise the profile of this issue and the work of FFA.				
		Develop media stories on this issue for wider distribution.				
5.4 Leverage FFA's position for market advantage, including through certification and branding of product.		Develop certification and branding for fish and fish products of FFA members to improve market access.	Ongoing	2023	10,000.00	
Subtotal					22,000.00	
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTING					<u>4,717,500.00</u>	
Objective 6: Domestication of longline fishing operations						

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<u>Activity Stream</u>	<u>Workplan (inc timeframe)</u>	<u>Revise Timeframe (2021 - onward)</u>		
The activities listed below were identified pertinent to achieving the objectives of the Strategy. The FFA Secretariat will be guided by these activities on the technical and policy support for the members under this Strategy. However, the Secretariat support for members in the management and development of Longline Fisheries is spread throughout Divisional support under the Secretariat programs, the various ongoing projects and ad hoc requests from members. The CSLA also plays a critical role in laying out national priorities (including LL management/development issues) in which the Secretariat aligned its annual planning with, to ensure services and support to members are continuous and timely. It is essential that our national administrations have the capabilities and capacities to implement regional and sub-regional requirements for the management of Longline Fisheries.				
Supporting national development through:				
6.1 Designing and implementing appropriate national cost-recovery mechanisms.	Members prioritizing and timing	Through the timeframe of the Strategy		
6.2 Promote a level playing field between domestic and high seas fishing operations by ensuring that high seas fishing is subject to at least the same level of regulation and compliance as in-zone.	Members prioritizing and timing			
6.3 Manage longline fisheries for optimum performance at the EEZ level.	Members prioritizing and timing			
6.4 Consulting with stakeholders.				
6.5 Surveillance of longline fishing activity in national waters and adjacent high seas.				
6.6 Pursuing Marine Stewardship Council certification of national longline fisheries, and application of well-documented social accountability standards to ensure access to high value markets, and to distinguish these fisheries from those on the high seas.	Members prioritizing and timing			
6.7 Identifying new markets and products to improve/add value.	Members prioritizing and timing			
6.8 Promoting training opportunities for national longline vessel skippers, engineers and crew, and advising on the development or application of labour standards.	Members prioritizing and timing			
6.9 Other agreed activities contributing to national development and capacity.	Members prioritizing and timing			

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Collaborative Actions to facilitate implementation						
6.10 Engagement with key DWFNs and industry players on the development of partnerships with Pacific Island countries to achieve the objectives of this Strategy with a focus on working together to create economically profitable and sustainable longline fisheries operations.		FFA members, DWFNs, Tuna Fishing/Processing Companies and Sector				
Strengthen engagements and partnerships with fishing industries on the development of LL fisheries.						
Strengthen engagements/partnerships with DWFNs on the management of LL fisheries.						
6.11 Regional organisation collaboration: FFA will regularly consult and collaborate with PNAO, SPC-OFP, PIFS and other regional or subregional entities involved in Pacific Island longline fisheries management, and non-governmental partners such as PITIA, ISSF and WWF.		FFA, CROP agencies, NGOs, academic institutions.				
Strengthen organisational collaborations with CROP agencies mainly SPC and USP on LL fisheries management.						
Establish collaborations with academic institutions and NGOs that can provide support for the members/secretariat on LL fisheries management.						
Strengthen collaboration with the PNAO on the management of key tuna species.						
6.12 Regional collaboration: FFA members have much to gain through collaboration in a considered strategic approach to improving the management of regional longline fisheries. Such collaboration will be aimed at supporting and strengthening sub-regional and national level management of longline fisheries while leveraging off our collective strength to achieve overall outcomes in the context of WCPFC and in negotiations with DFWNs.						
Strengthen sub-regional arrangements to push forward FFA positions at the WCPFC level on LL management.						
Strengthen national LL fisheries monitoring and management systems to implement regional and sub-regional arrangements.						
Effective FFA members participation in the WCPFC negotiations and meetings to ensure our positions are well articulated and defended.						
Measurement of Progress toward goals						
Activity Stream		Timeframe (when)	Timeframe			

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The FFA Secretariat will continue to assist members in monitoring the economic performance of longline fisheries under their control, and assessing changes from the baseline.	The Secretariat will report on the progress of implementation to the FFC.	The Secretariats will report on these progress to the FFC.		
SPC-OFP will continue to assess trends in the status of stocks, longline-vulnerable biomass and standardized effort	These will be reported also through the FFC.	These will be reported also through the FFC.		
The FFA membership will annually assess progress towards the completion of relevant strategic activities under this Strategy.	A summary report will be prepared by the FFC for the FFC Ministers endorsement.			

Annex B:

