

Supplementary Paper - Bigeye Tuna Workshop

The following CCM Positions are taken from the WCPFC22 Summary Report

CCM/ Bloc	Position/ Intervention
PNA+ / RMI (Marshall Islands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strongly opposed locking FAD closure into MP design. - Requested SPC to evaluate MPs without assuming FAD closure in baseline design. - Supported adoption of BET MP by 2026 and recognised commercial pressure to meet timeline. - Favoured an effort-based MP, aligned with Longline VDS and current effort controls. - Proposed MP output as a fishing mortality scalar, similar to skipjack MP, adjusting existing catch/effort limits. - Said Commission should retain flexibility on how to apply the scalar. - Would consider FAD closure adjustments only if disproportionate burden on PNA+ avoided. - Argued tailored approaches are permitted under CMM 2022-03. - Note that BET MP may only directly apply to ~27% of stock, so separate full arrangements may have limited value.
Kiribati (on behalf of PNA members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerned about 2026 workload, especially skipjack MP implementation. - Said BET MP may need lower priority if resources are constrained. - Note that the workplan is indicative, not rigid deadline. - Requested strategic guidance mechanisms in 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated workshops • special sessions • conditional decisions • SMD meetings - If in-person SMD is held, SC should be shortened.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serious concerns with MP controlling only tropical longline fishery (~27% of catches). - Noted purse seine FAD sets catch juveniles and may have larger stock impact. - Strongly preferred FAD closure duration included as a control variable in MP. - Supported SPC evaluating: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MPs without FAD closure, and 2. MPs with FAD closure explicitly included. - Wanted broad range of MP options retained. - Supported intersessional workshops (virtual and possibly in-person). - Preferred in-person workshop alongside TCC, not SC. - Continued support for threshold-type TRPs.
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Japan's call to include FAD closure in BET MP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerned MP is covering only 27% of catches was insufficient. - Highlighted rising bigeye catches in WPEA; sensitivity tests should reflect this. - Supported USA proposal for MPs including purse seine. - Supported two online workshops. - Preferred TRP corresponding to 94% of 2012–2015 SSB. - Supported exploring average-type TRP in addition to threshold type. - Supported 3-year cycle, 2-year lag, catch-based MP.
Chinese Taipei	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared Japan/Korea concerns that MP controlling <1/3 of catches would be ineffective. - Supported including FAD closure as a control element. - Asked whether purse seine effort controls (e.g., fishing days) could be used instead of FAD closure. - Emphasised that the issue is on practicality, not preference. - Supported evaluating MP options with FAD closure duration.
United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong commitment to adopting BET MP. - Said WCPFC22 must give guidance for 2026 adoption. - Stated best practice requires MP to control the majority of fishing pressure, meaning purse seine should also be included. - Asked SPC if combined longline + purse seine MP was feasible. - After SPC confirmation, requested additional candidate MPs including both fisheries. - Supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-year management period • 2-year data lag • Catch output for longline • FAD closure length controlling • FAD/free-school ratio for purse seine - Flexible on HCR shape. - Supported TRPs identified by SC21 and adopting one based on 2012–2015 depletion level. - Proposed virtual intersessional workshops in 2026. - Said precautionary approach is to keep all options on table, including FAD closure.
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questioned robustness of MP directly controlling <30% of fishing mortality. - Wanted minimal overlap/conflict between different species MPs. - Supported treating FAD closures as one-off sensitivities. - Preferred catch-based output. - Supported TRP aligned with existing BET CMM. - Supported 3-year cycle with 2-year lag. - Requested probability of being above SBMSY as performance indicator.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomed climate-change robustness testing. - Asked whether archipelagic catch uncertainty should be built into the OM grid. - Queried predicted decline in vulnerable biomass under some scenarios.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraged timely adoption of robust HCRs/reference points for BET and YFT. - Wanted science-based, ecosystem-aware, equitable outcomes. - Highlighted importance of small-scale fisheries. - Asked how MP would address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental variability • recruitment shifts • bigeye-yellowfin linkages - Asked whether catch-effort conversion would be simple or model-based.
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed evaluating all three candidate BET TRPs rather than choosing one now. - No strong threshold preference. - Strongly supported 3-year cycle. - Welcomed PNA+ proposal incorporating more catch sources including purse seine FAD fishing. - Said this may help near-term adoption. - Supported outputs compatible with current tropical tuna CMM. - Willing to work with others on compromise text.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted major decline in tropical longline fleet capacity. - Urged caution in assessing FAD closure impacts. - Highlighted significance of archipelagic catches. - Asked whether the tropical longline MP area might affect North Pacific albacore management.
Tuvalu (on behalf of FFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reiterated FAD closure should not be built into baseline assumptions or OM grid. - Considered FAD closures management choices that may change. - Preferred FAD closure tested as sensitivities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no closure • current closure • extended closure - Supported SPC scenarios on Indonesia/Philippines/Vietnam domestic & archipelagic catches. - Supported 3-year cycle. - Supported $\pm 10\%$ constraint on output changes. - Highlighted severe capacity constraints for SIDS. - Nonetheless committed to BET MP adoption by 2026. - Supported intersessional workshop in 2026.

FSM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported Marshall Islands and FFA positions (FAD closure duration should not be built into the baseline assumptions for the bigeye MP or operating model grid. - exclude FAD closure in MP). - Recalled difficult negotiations establishing FAD closures historically. - Said current aim is improved management through MP. - Noted FAD closures were broader conservation measures and burdens not equally shared. - Reiterated PNA+ would not accept locking FAD closures into MP.
Marshall Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reiterated major economic cost of FAD closures to PNA members. - Said PNA would not agree to locking FAD closure into BET MP. - Preferred online meetings due to growing costs/workload. - If in-person meeting is necessary, preferred alongside SC with shortened SC.
CNMI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concerned that the MP would regulate only ~27% of catches and burden longliners targeting adults. - Noted no controls on juvenile purse seine mortality. - Said vulnerable biomass is likely to decline. - Emphasised maintaining CPUE and fishing efficiency for all fishers, including coastal communities. - Urged explicit consideration of juvenile purse seine mortality.
American Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aligned with USA, Korea, CNMI. - Concerned all mortality control placed on longline fleets, including SIDS/territories. - Troubled by lack of juvenile purse seine controls. - Supported including purse seine juvenile mortality in MP. - Opposed treating FAD closure only as sensitivity. - Wanted viable catch rates of larger fish and stock biomass central to objectives.
PEW*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomed constructive discussion. - Encouraged maintaining a broad range of options. - Said intersessional dialogue meetings are essential for 2026 adoption.

The main areas of **agreement and disagreement** across CCM interventions are summarised in the table below.

Issue / Topic	Type	Where CCMs Converge / Diverge
Adoption of BET MP	Agreement	Broad support across all CCMs to develop and adopt a bigeye MP by 2026
Need for Intersessional Work	Agreement	Widespread support for workshops, SMDs, and additional meetings in 2026
3-Year Management Cycle (2-year lag)	Agreement	Supported by USA, EU, FFA, Australia, Korea (no clear opposition)
Need for Robust Scientific Testing	Agreement	Many CCMs call for sensitivity testing (climate, WPEA, uncertainty, etc.)
Importance of Purse Seine (Juvenile Catch)	Agreement (Problem Recognition)	General acknowledgment that purse seine impacts (esp. juveniles) are significant
Capacity Constraints (esp. SIDS)	Agreement	FFA members, PNA, Kiribati, RMI highlight limited capacity and workload

Issue / Topic	Type	Where CCMs Converge / Diverge
Inclusion of FAD Closure in MP	Disagreement (Major)	<p>Include in MP: Japan, Korea, USA, Chinese Taipei, CNMI, American Samoa</p> <p>Exclude / Sensitivity only: PNA+, FSM, FFA, RMI, Kiribati, EU (leaning)</p>
Scope of MP (Coverage of Fishing Mortality)	Disagreement (Major)	<p>Broad MP (LL + PS): USA, Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, CNMI, American Samoa, EU</p> <p>Narrower / LL-focused acceptable: PNA+, some FFA, Australia (flexible)</p>

Burden Sharing (LL vs PS sectors)	Disagreement (Underlying)	Implicit divide: Longline-focused vs inclusion of purse seine controls
Treatment of FAD Closure	Disagreement (Technical framing)	Control variable: Some CCMs Sensitivity test only: Others
TRP Decision Timing	Disagreement	Adopt now: USA, Japan, Korea Test first / decide later: Australia, others
Pace vs Complexity	Disagreement	Fast adoption (pragmatic): PNA+, FFA, USA, Australia More comprehensive design: Japan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, EU
Approach to Purse Seine Control	Disagreement	Options include FAD closure, effort controls, or indirect control via skipjack MP
Use of Catch vs Effort Outputs	Mild Disagreement	Catch-based preferred: EU, USA, Korea Effort-based interest: PNA+