

# MSC Fisheries Standard V3.1

## Section SE and Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission harvest strategy development

October 2024

Yellowfin tuna swimming in the depths of the sea ©iStock

The MSC Fisheries Standard Version 3.1 contains requirements (Section SE) to incentivise the development and implementation of robust and precautionary harvest strategies (HS) in stocks managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO). Four tuna stocks managed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are certified against Section SE: Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and South Pacific (SP) albacore. The milestones and deadlines for conditions associated with each stock are provided in the table over the following page.

### Notes

1. Skipjack has completed all Section SE milestones and is therefore not included in the table.
2. For the other stocks, the final deadline to complete the Section SE milestones is provided in the dark blue cells.
3. Relevant meeting under the WCPFC column refers to either the Scientific Committee meeting in August or the WCPFC annual meeting in December.
4. 'TTM revision' refers to the meeting where Tropical Tuna Measure (TTM) revision is planned. The TTM is the Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) that focuses on WCPO skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin.
5. This tracker only includes upcoming unmet Section SE milestones based on the MSC Fisheries Standard V.3.1. Milestones 5.1 and 5.2 represent a milestone from Section SE that independent assessors split in two and gave separate deadlines during the early application of the Section SE process for these stocks.

**If you have any questions, please contact  
MSC's WCPO tuna project team at [wcpotuna@msc.org](mailto:wcpotuna@msc.org)**

Upcoming Milestones & Deadlines		SOUTH PACIFIC ALBACORE			WCPO BIGEYE / YELLOWFIN		
		Section SE	WCPFC		Section SE	WCPFC	
		Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS workplan	Deadline	Relevant meeting	HS workplan
1	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are identified.	May 2025	August 2024	August 2024	May 2025	May 2024	August 2025
2	Operating models and candidate management procedures that include mechanisms for catch or effort constraints are tested through management strategy evaluation simulations.	May 2025	August 2024	August 2024	May 2026	August 2025	August 2025
3	Preferred harvest strategy(ies) adhering to a management procedure approach with an agreed catch or effort constraint are identified.	May 2025	August 2024	August 2024	May 2026	December 2025	December 2025
4	Mechanism for catch or effort constraints is agreed.	May 2025	December 2024	December 2024	May 2026	December 2025	December 2025
5.1	Harvest strategy following a management procedure approach is adopted.	May 2025	December 2024	December 2024	May 2026	December 2025	December 2026 (TTM revision)
5.2	Harvest strategy adhering to a management procedure approach, with and including catch or effort constraints or resource-sharing mechanism that follows scientific advice, is implemented.	May 2027	December 2026 (TTM revision)	December 2026 (TTM revision)	May 2029	December 2028	N/A (Plan not included in workplan)
6	Effectiveness review schedule of implemented harvest strategy is determined.	May 2027	December 2026 (TTM revision)	December 2026 (TTM revision)	May 2029	December 2028	December 2026 (TTM revision)