



**Joint IATTC-WCPFC Working Group on South Pacific Albacore Tuna
First Session (SPAJWG01)**

(9:00am-12:30pm) 18-19 March 2026 (Pohnpei) | (3:00pm-6:30pm) 17-18 March 2026 (La Jolla)
Virtual Meeting

WCPFC9 Decision on the WCPFC-IATTC Overlap Area

SPAJWG01-2026-IP05 (WCPFC)

SPAJWG-01-INF-E (IATTC)

18 March 2026

Note: This paper was presented at the 9th Regular Session of the WCPFC (WCPFC9) and is contained in document [WCPFC9-2012-33](#), dated 5 December 2012



**COMMISSION
NINTH REGULAR SESSION**
Manila, Philippines
2-6 December 2012

.WCPFC9 DECISION ON THE WCPFC-IATTC OVERLAP AREA

WCPFC9-2012-33
5 December 2012
1815

WCPFC9 DECISION ON THE WCPFC-IATTC OVERLAP AREA

WCPFC9 agreed to accept the Recommendation of the 84th extraordinary meeting of the IATTC regarding the overlap area as set out in WCPFC9-2012-16-rev1 (27 November 2012), with the additional recommendations set out below.

(a) In the short term, the following applies:

- (i) Vessels listed exclusively in the WCPFC record of Fishing Vessels shall apply the conservation and management measures of the WCPFC when fishing in the overlap area;
- (ii) Vessels listed exclusively in the IATTC register shall apply the conservation and management measures of the IATTC when fishing in the overlap area.
- (iii) In the case of vessels listed in the record/register of both organizations, the corresponding flag Member shall decide and notify to both Commissions under which of the two commissions those vessels shall operate when fishing in the overlap area, as regards the application, for a period of not less than three years, of the conservation and management measures of that Commission.
- (iv) In the case of vessels listed in the record/register of both organizations, the vessels of a Cooperating Non-Member shall apply the conservation and management measures of the Commission of which it is a member, when fishing in the overlap area.

(b) Initiate in parallel a longer-term process through the establishment of a joint working group to explore avenues for managing tuna stocks in the entire Pacific Ocean, considering, *inter alia*, the joint management components outlined in Option 5 as set out in WCPFC9-2012-IP01 (6 November 2012).

In addition, WCPFC recommends that the joint working group should also give consideration to the following matters: how VMS data from the overlap area would be made available; how high seas boarding and inspection procedures would be handled; the notification procedures and rules for those vessels which are able to choose between the two t-RFMOs; and how to handle when only one of the t-RFMOs has measures on a certain topic and whether there should be default or minimum-standard measures such as implementing joint requirements including for VMS, observers, catch reports.