



**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

WCPFC and IATTC Rules of Procedure: Side-by-side Review

**SPAJWG01-2026-IP03 (WCPFC)
SPAJWG-01-INF-C (IATTC)
17 March 2026**

IATTC and WCPFC Secretariats

WCPFC and IATTC Rules of Procedure: Side-by-side Review

RULE	IATTC	WCPFC	COMMENT/PROPOSAL
<u>Representation</u>	Before any meeting of the Commission, each Member shall communicate to the Director the names of the delegates, experts and advisers that it has appointed pursuant to Article VI.2 of the Convention. Note: As a practical matter, IATTC generally allows even same day registration for legitimate circumstances, as long as the person's standing to attend can be validated.	Names advised not less than 24 hours after commencement. Note: As a practical matter, WCPFC also allows some flexibility with regard to registration of persons whose standing to attend can be validated.	Proposal: Adopt the standard practice of registration for meetings in advance and registrations approved by the respective Secretariats for their members and observers.
<u>Meetings</u>	Invitations normally at least 45 days in advance. Agendas normally 30 days in advance of extraordinary meeting.	Special sessions: Date and provisional agenda advised at least 25 days in advance.	Rules met: Meeting announced 27 January 2026; provisional agenda circulated 5 February 2026. TOR: paragraph 6: Meetings of the SPAJWG will be convened by the Co-Chairs, consistent with the relevant rules of procedure of both Commissions. Information on the SPAJWG is on the WCPFC website. All relevant information was circulated to IATTC Members and cooperating non-members.
<u>Rapporteur</u>	Appointed from one of members.	RoP do not mention Rapporteur.	Proposal: no Rapporteur. Secretariats to work with Co-Chairs to produce meeting report and recommendations. This has been the general practice in IATTC whenever meetings fail to or decide not to appoint

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			a Rapporteur.
<u>Documents</u>	Documents to be discussed not less than 21 days in advance of meeting. Translations – 10 days in advance.	No specific rule. In practice: 30 days in advance.	Rules met: Documents (SPAJWG Terms of Reference and SPAJWG Work Plan 2026 circulated 4 February 2026). According to SPAJWG TOR, IATTC is responsible for translations into Spanish.
<u>Observers</u>	Annex 2 of Convention. In practice, there may be some observers to IATTC that are not observers to WCPFC and vice versa.	WCPFC has Participating Territories. Rule 36 contains the types of WCPFC Observers.	TOR: paragraph 1: composed of representatives of Members, Participating Territories and observers of <i>both</i> Commissions. Proposal: Any entity that is an accredited observer for either commission are eligible to attend meetings of the JWG.
<u>Chairs and Vice-Chairs and conduct of meetings:</u>	Standard rules.	Standard rules.	TOR: paragraph 4: Each Commission shall appoint a Co-Chair.
<u>Subsidiary bodies:</u>	Meet as determined by the Commission and elect own Chair.	Meet as determined by the Commission	TOR: paragraph 4.
<u>Director/Executive Director:</u>			N/A
<u>Decision-making:</u>	Consensus	Consensus but voting by Chambers if all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted.	Different decision-making rules and intersessional decision-making processes. However, the SPAJWG will not take “decisions”. TOR: paragraph 7: SPAJWG shall adopt its conclusions and recommendations by consensus. If efforts to achieve consensus fail, the meeting reports shall

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			so indicate and shall reflect the SPAJWG discussions.
<u>Reports:</u>	Draft reports submitted to members within 14 days for comment. 14 days for comment. Report approved through intersessional decision-making.	Summary reports maintained in such form as decided by Commission. 30 working days for comments on summary reports.	TOR: paragraphs 7 and 8 refer to “conclusions and recommendations” adopted by the SPAJWG. Proposal: draft meeting report submitted to members within 14 days for comment and 14 days provided for comment before submitted to both Commissions.
<u>Confidential documents</u>	Confidentiality rules.	Confidentiality rules.	TOR: paragraph 5: information sharing, in a manner consistent with the applicable rules and procedures of each Commission. Proposal: Each Commission’s rules would apply to the data according to its source. If the JWG sourced or produced something considered to be confidential it is proposed that the information would be to be consistent with both sets of rules of procedure.
<u>Languages</u>	Two languages; simultaneous interpretation; reports, minutes, official documents in both languages.		TOR : paragraph 5: simultaneous interpretation; translation of documents.
Conclusion: The differences between the Rules of Procedure of IATTC and WCPFC have either been resolved through the JWG Terms of Reference, or can be resolved in a pragmatic way, as decided by the JWG.			