



Terms of Reference and Guidelines For Participation

The Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish provides a forum for scientists and others with an interest in the tuna stocks of the western and central Pacific region to meet to discuss scientific issues related to data, research and stock assessment. Its aims are to:

1. Coordinate fisheries data collection, compilation and dissemination according to agreed principles and procedures;
2. Review research on the biology, ecology, environment and fisheries for tunas and associated species in the western and central Pacific;
3. Identify research needs and provide a means of coordination, including the fostering of collaborative research, to most efficiently and effectively meet those needs;
4. Review information pertaining to the status of the stocks of tunas and associated species in the western and central Pacific Ocean, and to produce statements on stock status where appropriate, and
5. Provide opinion on various scientific issues related to data, research and stock assessment of western and central Pacific Ocean tuna fisheries.

Participation in the SCTB is open to scientists and others with an interest in the tuna fisheries of the western and central Pacific. The participation of scientist from coastal states and territories of the region, scientists from countries whose vessels fish in the region, and scientists from international tuna fisheries management organizations is particularly encouraged.