

## SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION REGIONAL TUNA TAGGING PROJECT WORK PLAN FOR YEAR 1

### *1. Period of operations covered*

This work plan is constructed to cover the 12-month period following receipt of funds.

### *2. Purpose of the Project*

This project is expressly designed to provide practical answers to the questions raised by tuna fisheries interaction within the region. Specifically, three aspects will be addressed: (a) interaction between artisanal and industrial fisheries operating in coastal waters; (b) interaction between fisheries of all types operating in adjacent EEZs; and (c) interaction between different gear types operating on the same fishing ground. Both yellowfin and skipjack will be tagged, although priority will be given to yellowfin because of the paucity of information available for that species in the region.

### *3. Description of works to be undertaken in year 1*

The aim of the project is to tag yellowfin and skipjack in the general area of operation of the western Pacific purse seine fishery and in the EEZs of selected Pacific Island countries. The general strategy will be to tag pole-and-line caught fish from free-swimming or flotsam-associated schools; other fishing techniques may be employed as proves necessary and feasible.

Five professional staff will be recruited under normal SPC conditions: these positions have already been advertised and final selection will be submitted to the Delegation and RAO for approval.

An international tender for the charter of the research vessel has been launched: the final choice will involve an evaluation of both technical and financial aspects of the bids received.

As soon as the contract for the charter of the vessel is awarded, it will be necessary to make some modifications to the vessel in order to suit the needs of the project. These modifications will be undertaken at project expense prior to the commencement of field operations (fishing and tagging tuna at sea). In the meantime, scientific, tagging and fishing equipment will be procured, either by international tender or acquired locally.

Field activities will begin immediately following the completion of vessel modifications and procurement of plant and supplies. The vessel will start working in Solomon Islands waters for an estimated two months; it will then transfer to Papua New Guinea waters and work north from a base port of Kavieng or Manus Island.

Tagging will be carried out in the general area of the distant-water fishing nation purse seine fishery (approximately 10°N-5°S, 135°E-165°E), which is in support of the major objectives of the project.

This field activity will continue for the remainder of year 1, with the possibility of also working out of ports in Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. The exact areas of operation will at all times depend on the distribution of the purse seine fleet and the availability of tuna and suitable baitfish.

Research efforts will be concentrated in areas of greatest fishing activity. Priority will be given to releasing the greatest number of tagged fish, but where flexibility exists, tags will be released in spatial and temporal patterns most suited to quantitative estimation of the parameters of fisheries interactions.

Field activities will be constantly monitored to assist in directing operations and ensuring that project objectives are being met. All data will be stored and processed in the computing facilities at SPC headquarters in Noumea.

Initial tag returns from some fisheries could be expected within one month of release, and from other fisheries after a lag of six months. Preliminary scientific results, somewhat biased by the absence of long-term migrants, could be derived from the analysis of the tag return data received during the first twelve months after release.

#### *4. Administration Procedures*

- 4.1 The charter of the vessel will be awarded after a restricted invitation to tender following a notice of prequalification.
- 4.2 Part of the supplies will be procured through international tendering; part will be locally purchased because of the nature of the items and the small quantities involved.
- 4.3 An advance account will be established to cover the budgeted local expenditures incurred by the South Pacific Commission in the implementation of the project. This will be set up by a Memorandum of Understanding between the South Pacific Commission and the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in the Solomon Islands (see Annex A).
- 4.4 Disbursement schedule for the funds agreed in the budget estimate will take place as follows: 50% is advanced to SPC after approval of the work plan and budget for year 1; replenishment could take place four times per year upon submission of invoices accompanied by original supporting documents.

#### *5. Progress reports*

Six monthly reports of activity of the project will be submitted by SPC to the Delegation.

#### *6. Estimated calendar of activities*

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Recruitment of scient.	x											
Scientists in op.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Vessel modifications	x											
Tagging operations		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Data processing							x	x	x	x	x	x
Purchase of supplies	x											
Reports						x						x

*7. Budget for local expenditures in year 1*

	ECU
Salaries and benefits - scientists	291,000
- fishing specialists	20,000
Travel	130,000
Plant and supplies locally purchased	100,000
Mainframe computer expenses	4,000
Victualling expenses on the vessel	45,000
Vessel modifications	40,000
Fish purchase	50,000
Tag rewards	110,000
Advertising	10,000
Contingencies	75,000
 Total	 875,000

US\$=117 CFP

ECU1=128.2363 CFP

*8. Budget explanation and justification of expenditures*

**Salaries and benefits :** this item includes the salaries for five professionals in charge of research activities on board the vessel and data processing at headquarters. Fishing specialists are pole-and-line fishermen with previous experience in tagging that will be hired by SPC in addition to the vessel crew. Properly authenticated statements will be provided by SPC as proof of expenditures.

**Travel :** appointment and duty travel for fishing and scientific crew (see above), and associated travel by other SPC Tuna Programme staff in support of the Project. A statement establishing the per diem rates will be provided.

Original ticket stubs will be provided.

**Plant and supplies locally purchased :** scientific equipment, tagging materials and fishing gear for use primarily on board the research vessel. When the item purchased exceeds 300 ECU, competitive quotations will be obtained; over 2000 ECU a local tender will take place.

**Mainframe computer expenses :** incremental costs of expendable computer supplies and maintenance attributable to the project. Normal accounting procedure will be followed and provided as proof of expenditures.

**Victualling :** messing and accommodation charges on the vessel at a per capita daily rate of 25 US\$ for SPC staff and other persons not members of the regular crew. Copy of the agreement between the owner of the chartered vessel and SPC will be provided.

**Vessel modifications :** to improve effectiveness of the vessel with regard to the project aims. Work will be performed after competitive quotations are obtained.

**Fish purchase :** a compensatory payment is made for fish tagged and released from additional small vessels participating in in-country tagging programmes. Records of payments will be kept and submitted as proof of expenditure.

**Tag rewards :** this item refers to the reward presented to fishermen or process workers for finding the tag and returning it to Noumea. Normal accounting procedures will be followed.

**Advertising :** to cover expenditures incurred by the project for the regional advertising for the vessel, the recruitment of scientists and the tender of the supplies.

**Contingency :** to cover the project against possible exchange rate fluctuations between the currency of funds (ECU) and the operational currency of SPC.

**Presented by the South Pacific Commission**

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**Approved by the Regional Authorising Officer**

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**Endorsed by the Delegation of the Commission  
of the European Communities in the Solomon Islands**

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