



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

Annual Operational Plan

For Highly Migratory Species Fisheries 2018/19



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1 Annual Operational Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2018/19

The Annual Operational Plan for Highly Migratory Species 2018/19 (the Annual Operational Plan) sets out initiatives for the management of New Zealand's highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. HMS are fish that swim large distances and are found in both New Zealand's offshore waters and on the high seas. New Zealand's HMS fisheries are made up of:

- Large pelagic species: (fish that live near the surface of the water column) such as bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, and swordfish caught by surface longline. Important non-target species include albacore tuna, pelagic sharks, Ray's bream, and moonfish
- Skipjack tuna: caught by purse seine inside New Zealand waters and in other areas of the Pacific Ocean
- Albacore tuna: mostly caught by trolling

2 Overview of the Annual Operational Plan

PURPOSE

The Annual Operational Plan establishes Key Focus Areas and Business As Usual tasks for the management of New Zealand's HMS fisheries and management initiatives within these items. This Annual Operational Plan commences on 1 July 2018 and will expire on 30 June 2019.

SCOPE

The Annual Operational Plan includes management initiatives aimed at achieving desired outcomes for New Zealand's HMS fisheries, including commercial, recreational and customary sectors.

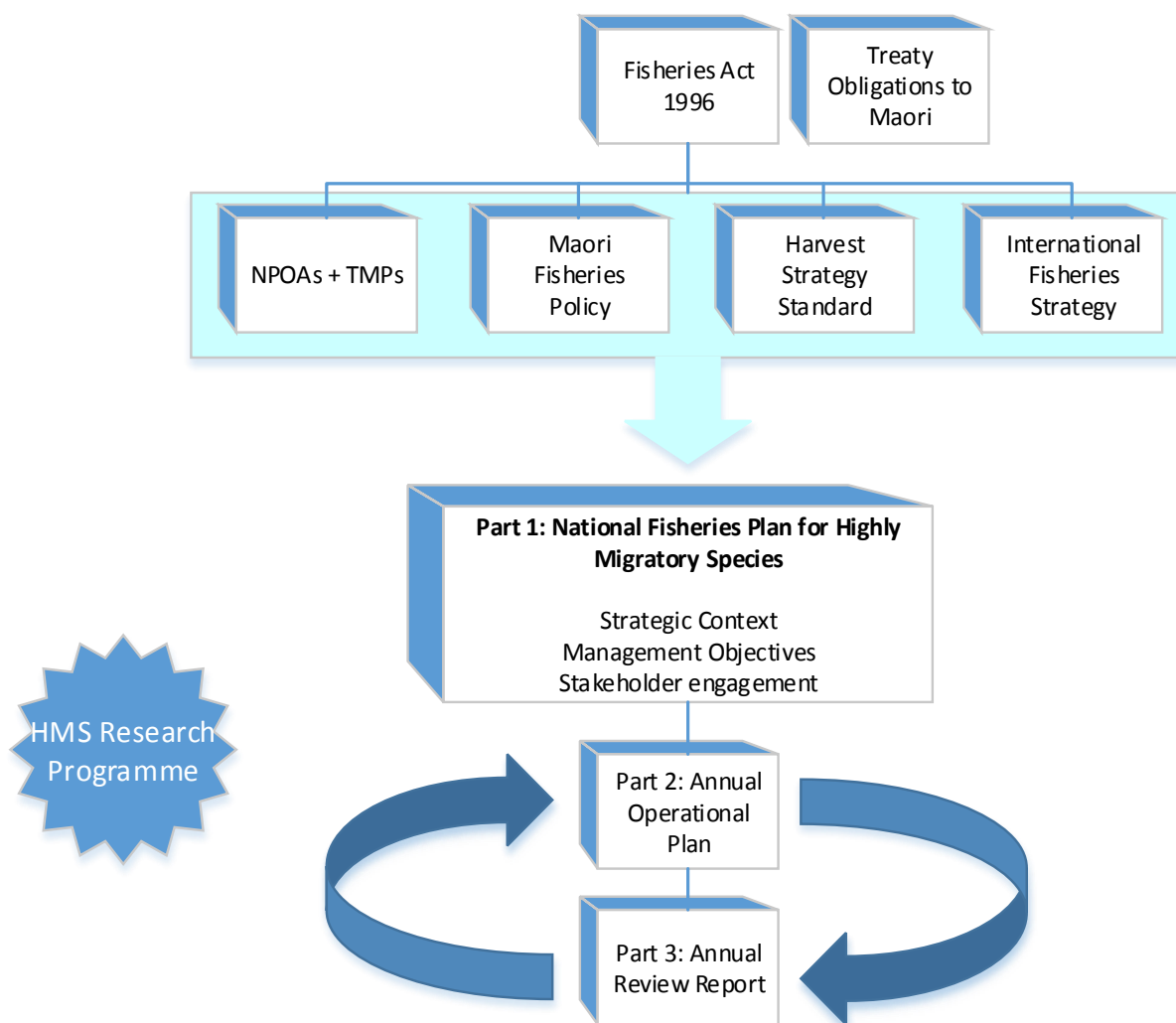
The Annual Operational Plan mainly impacts those fisheries operating within the exclusive economic zone from 12-200 nautical miles, but where a national allocation has been made under a regional fisheries management organisation, determination will include all those areas appropriate to the regional fisheries management organisation.

The management of HMS fisheries encompasses all target stocks, bycatch fish stocks, and the environmental impacts of fishing. In managing the stocks in the New Zealand context, consideration of the wider regional fisheries management organisation management settings and strategies needs to be taken into account. In some instances, this may impose constraints on the ability of New Zealand to manage its stocks in a manner appropriate to the wider New Zealand fisheries regime.

This Annual Operational Plan has been prepared in a consultative collaborative process with tangata whenua and stakeholders from industry, the recreational sector, and environmental organisations.

STRUCTURE

The Annual Operational Plan is driven by the HMS Fisheries Plan. At a conceptual level, the HMS Fisheries Plan sits within a hierarchy of fundamental legislation including the Fisheries Act 1996 (the Fisheries Act) and Treaty of Waitangi obligations to Maori, which provide strategic direction for a range of policy instruments and standards. These legislative requirements and policies help to inform the HMS Fisheries Plan, which in turn sets the direction, objectives and tactics for the Annual Operational Plan.



The management of New Zealand's HMS fisheries consists of three parts, divided into longer-term objectives and shorter-term operational cycles.

The HMS Fisheries Plan

The HMS Fisheries Plan describes the overall strategic direction for New Zealand's HMS fisheries and provides:

- 1 Strategic Context
- 2 HMS Management Objectives
- 3 Profile of New Zealand's HMS fisheries

While the HMS Fisheries Plan provides a multi-year, overarching framework for the management of HMS fisheries, details of the day-to-day operational objectives that will be implemented for each individual fishery are specified in the Annual Operational Plan. The Annual Operational Plan also outlines the required services, delivery mechanisms, and service prioritisation issues for the upcoming financial year.

The Annual Operational Plan

The Annual Operational Plan sets out:

- 1 How individual fisheries will be managed during the individual years which make up the term of the HMS Fisheries Plan
- 2 Key tasks that will be undertaken to support the successful delivery of management and operational objectives
- 3 Key performance indicators that will be used to monitor whether the delivery of the management and operational objectives is successful
- 4 The core services (e.g. field operations, research, and regulatory) that are required in each fishing year to deliver management and operational objectives
- 5 In situations where there are limited business group resources and competing tasks and objectives, the operational plan also prioritises which services will be delivered, including a rationale for this prioritisation

The Annual Operational Plan is produced before the start of each financial year, and will be publicly available through the Fisheries New Zealand website. Its production will be aligned with planning and prioritisation processes within Fisheries New Zealand.

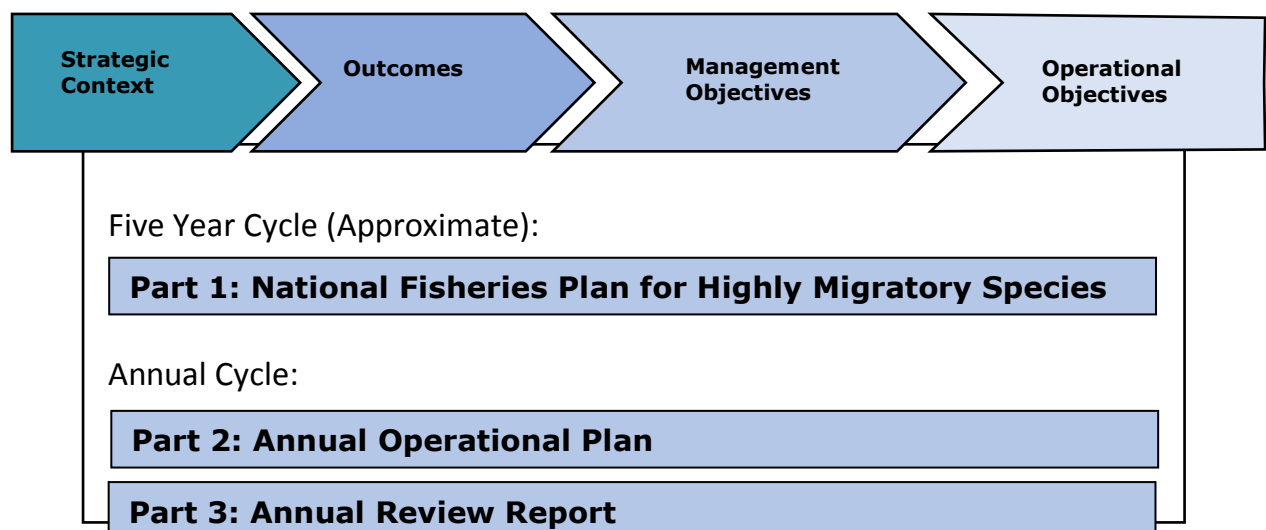
Annual Review Report

A formal annual review process is used to monitor the delivery of the tasks identified in the current Annual Operational Plan as well as overall performance of the fisheries in relation to some of the wider HMS management objectives.

The Annual Review Report will assess progress against performance indicators laid out for each Management Objective.

The Annual Review Report will be used to inform the development of the following year's Annual Operational Plan, and will be publicly available through the Fisheries New Zealand website.

The HMS Fisheries Plan structure:



3 Outcomes

The HMS Fisheries Plan establishes strategic direction for fisheries through the adoption of two outcomes: use; and environment. Both outcomes describe what it will mean to maximise the benefits from the sustainable use of our HMS fisheries resources, and to ensure that the health of the aquatic environment is maintained. Robust governance arrangements are necessary to ensure the successful delivery of the use and environment outcomes, and therefore governance conditions are included as the third outcome.

Use Outcome: Fisheries resources are used in a manner that provides greatest overall economic, social, and cultural benefit

Environment Outcome: The capacity and integrity of the aquatic environment, habitats and species are sustained at levels that provide for future and current use

Governance Conditions: Sound governance arrangements that are well specified, transparent, and which support cost-effective and accountable decision-making

Each of these outcomes is further specified through a series of Management Objectives. For detailed information about the Management Objectives, please see the HMS Fisheries Plan Management objectives.

Use Outcome	1	Support viable and profitable commercial tuna fisheries in New Zealand
	2	Maintain and enhance world class game fisheries in New Zealand fisheries waters
	3	Māori interests (including customary, commercial, recreational, and environmental) are enhanced

Environment Outcome	4	Maintain sustainable HMS fisheries within environmental standards
	5	Implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, taking into account associated and dependent species
	6	Protect, maintain, and enhance fisheries habitat

Governance Conditions	7	Maintain an effective fisheries management regime
	8	Recognise and deliver Deed of Settlement obligations
	9	Ensure New Zealand interests are taken into account internationally
	10	Contribute to Pacific capacity development

4 Key Focus Areas and Business As Usual tasks for 2018/19

KEY FOCUS AREAS

In implementing the HMS Fisheries Plan, the proposed Key Focus Areas (KFAs) for 2018/19 are as follows:

KFA 1: MANAGE INTERACTIONS OF HMS FISHERIES WITH SEABIRDS

OVERVIEW

The National Plan of Action to Reduce the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in New Zealand Fisheries 2013 (National Plan of Action for Seabirds) sets out a long-term objective, supporting high-level subsidiary objectives, and objectives to be met within the first five years. The long-term objective is that:

New Zealand seabirds thrive without pressure from fishing related mortalities, New Zealand fishers avoid or mitigate against seabird captures and New Zealand fisheries are globally recognised as seabird friendly.

Annual operational plans, including this one for HMS fisheries, incorporate more specific tasks to meet the objectives contained in National Plan of Action for Seabirds.

(Note: National Plan of Action for Seabirds is currently under review, and the revised National Plan of Action for Seabirds objectives will guide future annual operational plan.)

Current status: New Zealand has the most diverse seabird community in the world. It is an important breeding ground for 85 species (95 different taxa) of seabirds, including the greatest number of albatrosses and petrels.

Biological characteristics of albatross and petrel species result in a low intrinsic rate of population increase. These include late maturity, low productivity, and prolonged time spent in finding partners. Therefore, these seabirds are not be able to sustain significant mortalities.

Incidental capture by commercial fishing operations is a significant threat to many seabird species globally. This has been acknowledged to be of serious concern since the early 1990s.

Fisheries New Zealand monitors seabird bycatch as part of its at-sea observer program. Observations are used to calculate total estimated captures. This information is further used to model risk from fishing to each seabird species. According to the most recent MPI risk assessment¹, a number of species are at 'high' or 'very high' risk from commercial fishing. Of the top ten species with the highest risk ranking, the surface longline fishery poses a substantial portion of the fisheries risk to four (black petrel, Gibson's albatross, Antipodean albatross and northern Buller's albatross). The risk from non-New Zealand commercial fisheries has not been fully explored, but given the population declines seen in species such as the Antipodean albatross, significant captures levels are likely occurring beyond New Zealand waters.

Mitigation measures: As a Member of WCPFC, New Zealand is required to implement the conservation and management measure for seabirds. The measure is implemented by way of the *Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longline) Circular 2014*², which requires that commercial fishers to use two of three prescribed mitigation measures when setting surface longline fishing gear:

¹ MPI (2016) Aquatic Environment and Biodiversity Annual Review 2016. Compiled by the Fisheries Management Science Team, Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington, New Zealand. 790p. Available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16339>

² *Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longline) Circular 2014* is currently being updated to reflect changes made to the tori line requirements for small vessels in the WCPFC seabird conservation and management measure.

1. Use a tori line, *and*
2. *Either*:
 - a. Use line weighting, *or*
 - b. Set line at night

In addition to regulated measures, there are a number of voluntary seabird mitigation practices that fishers can use in trying to reduce the risk posed to seabirds. These practices include offal management, using an additional tori line, using line shooters, and using hook shielding devices (such as hook pods).

Other activities include:

- Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme: Liaison Officers will visit each vessel in the surface longline fleet to update their risk management plans. These plans provide vessel-specific strategies to mitigate bycatch of seabirds and other protected species such as turtles. The programme is planned to continue until 30 June 2020. Fisheries New Zealand will continue engagement with and support for this programme.
- Longline Workshops: these workshops are the primary means of engagement with surface longline fishers. Current issues are discussed and updates are provided. Key topics include bycatch, compliance with management measures, additional mitigation options and observer coverage.
- Alternative mitigation trials and use: last year, the Department of Conservation (DOC) trialled hook pods on a surface longline vessel. New Zealand then proposed the use of hook shielding devices as a standalone measure at WCPFC, but no agreement was reached. New Zealand will present additional information on hook shielding devices as part of the WCPFC scientific committee and look to have the measure amended to allow their use as a stand-alone seabird bycatch mitigation measure. In conjunction with industry, Fisheries New Zealand will investigate the potential of alternative mitigation technologies such as bait setters.

Seabird proxy targets: Currently, there is insufficient observer coverage and data for capture rates to be used as a quantitative measure of successful management over time. If applicable in the future, Fisheries New Zealand will set quantitative capture rate reduction targets for HMS fisheries. In the meantime, seabird proxy measures are used. The proxy measures are aimed at assessing behaviour and risk in the fleet as an alternative to a numerically based capture rate (appendix section 6.2). Improved behaviour and buy-in from operators should translate into improved practices and therefore fewer incidents of avoidable bycatch.

The proxy measures have been updated since the last annual operational plan (2017/18). The two updates are: the inclusion of an additional measure indicating the response of vessels when a seabird trigger point is met; the percentage of the fleet with risk management plans that indicate the use of line weighting (in accordance with the required specifications) as a seabird mitigation measure.

- Observed compliance with mitigation measures
- The percentage of the fleet with risk management plans in place that indicate the use of line weighting in accordance with the required specifications
- The level of non-fish bycatch reporting compared with observed non-fish bycatch reporting

The Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme introduced reporting trigger points for seabird captures into the surface longline fishery. All trigger level captures must be reported by the fishery to a liaison officer and recorded (as legally required) in the Fisheries New Zealand non-fish bycatch form. The trigger points are as follows:

- 1 black petrel or flesh-footed shearwater or wandering albatross at any time
- 3 dead big (e.g. albatross) seabirds in a 24 hour period
- 5 dead small (e.g. petrel, shearwater) seabirds in a 24 hour period
- 10 dead or alive seabirds in a seven day period

Species-specific action plans: Species-specific action plans have been developed for Gibson's and Antipodean albatrosses, which were identified as high risk species. The aim of the plans is to move the species to a less threatened category. An Antipodean Albatross Working Group was set up in 2017 in light of serious population decline, with the aim of investigating the declining population and

determining what actions are needed to remedy it. Fisheries New Zealand is facilitating the working group, and a number of action items from the work plan have been incorporated in this plan.

International: Many seabird species found in New Zealand waters also travel widely across the Pacific and beyond, therefore international advocacy is an important component to successful management of seabird interactions. In particular, the range of Gibson's and Antipodean albatrosses, which are at risk from capture in surface longline fisheries, overlap with a wide range of fisheries outside New Zealand waters.

Recreational activities: Incidental capture by recreational fishing activities and the resulting risk to seabird species is unknown. Boat ramp surveys in early 2018 included questions on seabird interactions. Therefore, results of the survey should be able to provide an indication of potential risk that recreational fishing may be posing to seabirds.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds
- Monitor seabird captures using observer data and fisher reporting
- Contribute to the seabird risk assessment update and the southern hemisphere risk assessment
- Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures
- Update seabird mitigation measures to reflect changes to the WCPFC seabird conservation and management measure
- Review seabird mitigation measures in light of recent advice from ACAP on line weighting specifications
- Provide a liaison role to Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme
- Raise and provide information on issues at stakeholder meetings
- Provide for the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate
- Monitor seabird proxy measures
- Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions
- Prioritise observer coverage in the east coast North Island fishery where Antipodean albatrosses have been previously captured
- Support the Black Petrel Working Group
- Monitor the use of voluntary mitigation practices and innovation in mitigation gear
- Monitor the impact of recreational HMS fisheries on seabird populations
- Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds
- Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations

- Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure
- Support the development of proposals to be presented at the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to strengthen the seabird conservation and management measure
- Use existing cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds.
- When possible, support fisheries managers in the Pacific Islands to create sound governance arrangements in relation to minimising seabird interaction and mortality

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Science: lead research projects and provide advice as required on other tasks
- Compliance: monitor and enforce compliance with seabird mitigation requirements
- Observer Services: deliver planned observer coverage
- Data Management: manage data submission process for regional fisheries management organisations, and data for seabird proxy targets
- International Fisheries Management: Raise awareness of antipodean albatross as part of bilateral discussions with relevant states.
- Stakeholders: support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme, provide input and advice to improve mitigation measures where possible; contribute to working groups; support efforts to improve representativeness of observer coverage; and feedback on consultations.

KFA 2: CONTRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES THROUGH REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

OVERVIEW

Fishing for HMS, both within exclusive economic zones and on the high seas, is subject to an obligation to cooperate with other countries in the management of those stocks throughout their migratory range. Regional fisheries management organisations are the primary vehicle for such management. For New Zealand HMS, there are two key regional fisheries management organisations:

CCSBT: The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) manages southern bluefin tuna throughout the range where southern bluefin tuna are caught.

In 2014, Members reached agreement to account for all sources of mortality (eg recreational catch and other mortality caused by fishing) as part of their national allocations. Members provided initial estimates at the Commission meeting in 2017 and committed to full accounting by 2018. The New Zealand delegation will continue its advocacy role to ensure that Members uphold commitments to accounting for all sources of mortality.

In March 2018, there was an intersessional meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group. At this meeting, New Zealand volunteered to draft a proposal to improve the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee, and to assist the European Union in drafting an Ecologically Related Species Resolution that strengthens the current 'recommendation' to a requirement that members comply with relevant RFMO ecologically related species measures. Both of which will be presented at the Extended Commission meeting.

This year, CCSBT will be developing a new management procedure, used to determine the global total allowable catch using a number of inputs. A number of varying management objectives will be used in testing the new management procedure. The New Zealand position will continue to be for precautionary objectives to be set to ensure that we improve on the interim rebuilding target (currently 20% of unfished biomass by 2025, with a 70% certainty) and also recognise the uncertainty surrounding the recent recruitment increase.

An Ecologically Related Species Working Group is scheduled for March 2019 pending confirmation at this year's Commission meeting. New Zealand is leading core pieces of work for this Working Group, including identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds.

CCSBT business as usual tasks include administering the catch documentation scheme; administering the authorised vessel list; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings, including:

- 23rd Meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee (3-8 September 2018)
- 13th Meeting of the Compliance Committee (11-13 October 2018)
- 25th Annual Meeting of the CCSBT (15-18 October 2018)
- 13th Ecologically Related Species Working Group meeting (March 2019)

WCPFC: The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) promotes and manages long-term conservation and sustainable use of HMS in the western and central Pacific Ocean.

For South Pacific albacore, there are two main work items this year: to develop the long term target reference point for albacore; and to develop a plan for agreeing allocations and limits, monitoring and reporting, and supporting implementation of the harvest strategies for south Pacific albacore.

Other priorities for this year include discussions on hard limits and allocation frameworks for the purse seine and bigeye tuna longline fisheries. The Commission agreed to come to a decision on high seas limits and allocation across members for the purse seine fishery by December 2019. For the bigeye longline fishery, members will consider limits and allocations for the entire Convention area, and come to a decision by December 2020.

There will also be work on developing a new compliance monitoring scheme, for which discussions will begin at the Technical and Compliance Committee meeting, and there is ongoing work to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure.

New Zealand will again propose to extend the range of the seabird conservation and management measure at the Scientific Committee. The proposal would see implementation of the seabird mitigation requirements extended from 30 degrees south to 25 degrees south, to cover the range of seabirds (including vulnerable New Zealand species) more completely. Another proposal will be to include hook shielding devices as a standalone seabird bycatch mitigation measure.

The Tropical Tuna measure will be re-negotiated this year as a number of the provisions negotiated last year were for one year only. The positive stock assessment for bigeye last year resulted in some members seeking less constraint on the catches of bigeye. Given there was a level of uncertainty in the bigeye assessment, New Zealand advocated for precautionary actions. The one year nature of some of the provisions enables consideration of revised scientific advice on the bigeye stock assessment this year.

WCPFC business as usual tasks include: updating New Zealand vessels on WCPFC's record of fishing vessels as required; issuing and updating high seas permits as required to ensure New Zealand vessels fishing within the WCPFC area comply with all relevant measures; preparing and submitting fisheries data; and preparing for annual and subsidiary meetings, including:

- 3rd Meeting of the WCPFC E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Working Group (6-7 August 2018)
- 14th Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (8-16 August 2018)
- 14th Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (26 September-2 October 2018)
- 3rd Meeting of the WCPFC FAD Management Options IWG (3 October 2018)

- 15th Regular Session of the Commission (10-14 December 2018)

Te Vaka Moana: Te Vaka Moana had its annual meeting on 8-9 February, 2018 and decided the group would go into abeyance but would continue to meet in the margins of other regional meetings to discuss possible informal avenues for cooperation amongst members.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- CCSBT:
 - Attend annual meetings
 - Arrange stakeholder pre-meetings
 - Support and advocate all Members accounting for all sources of mortality
 - Support the European Union in drafting the Ecologically Related Species Resolution
 - Draft a proposal to improve the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee
 - Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure
 - Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds
- WCPFC:
 - Attend annual meetings
 - Arrange stakeholder pre-meets
 - Support International Fisheries Management in participating in work on developing the long term target reference point for albacore and the albacore road map
 - Engagement in the WCPFC intersessional working group on sharks, and the development of a more comprehensive shark CMM.
 - Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure
 - Support International Fisheries Management in advocating for precautionary management actions for the bigeye fishery as part of the Tropical Tuna Measure negotiations

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- International Fisheries Management: lead input into WCPFC and FFA; provide advice as required for CCSBT; and liaise with stakeholders to keep them informed about international management
- Science: lead input into scientific processes and provide additional scientific advice as required
- Compliance: provide compliance advice as required; attend relevant meetings, e.g. Technical and Compliance Committee
- Data Management: ensure timely submissions of New Zealand's fisheries data as required under WCPFC and CCSBT agreements

- Stakeholders: provide input into New Zealand's negotiating positions, through stakeholder consultation meetings and communications; participate in international meetings as part of the New Zealand delegation (following an approval process) or as meeting observers

KFA 3: STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT OF NON-COMMERCIAL HMS FISHERIES

OVERVIEW

Customary fishing: The HMS team aims to strengthen engagement with tangata whenua, and ensure the opportunity for tangata whenua to provide input and participate in the management of HMS species. This year the HMS team will attend relevant iwi forums and engage with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives on proposed changes to HMS fisheries.

Customary fishing rights are guaranteed to tangata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the Treaty of Waitangi. These rights are provided for in law in through the provisions of:

- Section 10 of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992; and
- Section 21 and 186 of the Fisheries Act 1996

Customary reporting of certain HMS species can be achieved through the use of customary permits as set out under the The Fisheries (Kaimoana Customary Fishing) Regulations 1999, the South Island Customary Fishing Regulations 1999 and other specific regulations that relate to Deeds of Settlement for particular iwi.

To date, there are no records of customary permits being used for HMS species.

Recreational fishing: The HMS team is responsible for monitoring non-commercial tuna and billfish game fisheries, as well as consulting and engaging with relevant recreational fishers and charter operators. The HMS team will work with the inshore fisheries team within Fisheries Management to strengthen the management of non-commercial HMS fisheries.

Recreational fisheries are monitored in a variety of ways. Recreational charter boats are subject to compulsory registration, activity reporting, and catch reporting for specified stocks, including southern and Pacific bluefin tunas. Monitoring also occurs through voluntary reporting, including through the long-standing game fish tagging programme, landed catch records from New Zealand Sport Fishing Council (NZSFC) clubs, and targeted logbook schemes. Information from recreational fisheries monitoring is used in stock assessments and other scientific research.

Southern bluefin tuna: Prior to 2017, recreational catches of southern bluefin tuna are likely to have been rare because of the locations and seasons during which southern bluefin tuna are found in New Zealand waters (generally winter months and areas with little recreational fishing). However, recreational catches have been recorded in the months from February to September, and in the last year, southern bluefin tuna has become a more targeted species for recreational fishers on both coasts. Compulsory reporting for recreational charter vessel operators was introduced in November 2010 and only minimal amounts were reported prior to 2017.

In 2017, there was a significant increase in the recreational take of southern bluefin tuna, due to a mixture of factors, including favourable weather conditions, proximity of fish, and increased recreational interest. Consultation will take place as part of the 1 October sustainability round, to determine the Total Allowable Catch, Total Allowable Commercial Catch and allowances. The consultation will also include proposals for management constraints for the recreational fishing sector, which aim to be implemented ahead of the 2019 recreational fishing season.

Efficient management of the recreational sector for southern bluefin tuna is a key focus area that the HMS team will be concentrated on going forward, to ensure that New Zealand meets international obligations and to provide an abundant southern bluefin tuna fishery for all New Zealanders.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives.
- Build stronger relationships with tangata whenua, and recognise the importance of HMS fisheries to Maori.
- Monitor trends using landed catch from NZSFC records, tag and release data from the game fish tagging database, information from charter vessel reporting, and CPUE from logbook schemes
- Support stakeholders to develop a strategy to continually build and foster improved relationships between recreational and commercial HMS fishers
- Support and assist stakeholders to identify and resolve potential conflict between recreational and purse seine fishers and surface longline fishers
- Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions and recognise the economic and inherent value of game fisheries to New Zealand
- If CPUE drops below the long-term mean for four consecutive years for striped marlin, a management review will be triggered
- Review the recreational allowance for southern bluefin tuna as part of the 1 October Sustainability round
- Implement recreational management constraints for southern bluefin tuna
- Participate in Marine Amateur Fishing Working Group

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Customary team: support HMS team with iwi engagement as required
- Inshore Fisheries Management: assist HMS team with consultation, engagement, and education of recreational fishers for HMS
- Science: lead on HMS related science for customary and recreational fishing effort.
- Data Management: collect and analyse recreational and charter vessel data as needed

BUSINESS AS USUAL TASKS

Management of HMS fisheries also includes a range of Business As Usual (BAU) tasks, as outlined below.

BAU 1: MANAGE INTERACTIONS OF HMS FISHERIES WITH SHARKS

OVERVIEW

National Plan of Action for Sharks: A revised National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (National Plan of Action for Sharks) was adopted in 2014.³ The purpose of the National Plan of Action for Sharks is:

To maintain the biodiversity and the long-term viability of all New Zealand shark populations by recognising their role in marine ecosystems, ensuring that any utilisation of sharks is sustainable, and that New Zealand receives positive recognition internationally for its efforts in shark conservation and management

Fisheries New Zealand is focused on understanding and managing the interaction of HMS fisheries with sharks. All shark related actions are aligned with the goals of National Plan of Action for Sharks in the following key areas:

- Biodiversity and long-term viability
- Utilisation, waste reduction, and elimination of shark finning
- Domestic engagement and partnership
- Non-fishing threats
- International engagement
- Research and information

A review of the National Plan of Action for Sharks will take place in 2018/19, led by Fisheries New Zealand, with input from the Shark Advisory Group. The HMS team will assist the Deep Water Team as required.

Shark finning ban review: In 2018/19, Fisheries New Zealand will report on a review conducted on the shark finning ban. Shark finning was banned on 1 October 2014, meaning that it is illegal to remove the fins from a shark and discard the body of the shark at sea. Under the ban, fishers are still able to land shark fins, however conditions apply depending on the species concerned, detailed landing requirements can be found in the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001.⁴ The review will include; compliance with landing, discarding, and reporting requirements, the effects of the ban on catch levels, and compliance with Schedule 6 release conditions. The review will also incorporate data and feedback from Fisheries Officers, Fisheries Observers, and fishers. Information from this review will play an important role contributing to the upcoming National Plan of Action for Sharks review. Fisheries New Zealand aims to present the initial outcomes to the Shark Advisory Group in mid-late 2018.

Monitoring HMS Sharks: HMS sharks include the blue shark, mako shark, and porbeagle shark. Over the last five years there has been a downward trend in the total landings of HMS sharks. The HMS team will continue to monitor and report on catches and landings of HMS sharks.

Stock status: Fisheries New Zealand work on sharks is supported by a 2014 qualitative risk assessment, which considered relative risks to shark populations for quota management species, non-quota management species, and protected shark species. HMS species that are managed under the quota management species include blue shark, mako shark, and porbeagle shark. These three species were ranked amongst the lowest risk quota management species. This was updated in 2017 and the updated version aims to be published in 2018.

International: HMS sharks spend part of their lives in New Zealand waters and may migrate over considerable distances. Through regional fisheries management including the CCSBT and WCPFC, New Zealand is able to cooperate with other states in the management of HMS shark species. It is imperative this cooperation happens to ensure New Zealand's conservation and management

³ Available here: <https://fs.fish.govt.nz/Page.aspx?pk=165>

⁴ <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2001/0253/latest/whole.html>

measures are not undermined and that New Zealand fulfils its international obligations.

WCPFC continues to work towards the development of a comprehensive approach to shark and ray conservation and management. At the 14th meeting of the WCPFC Commission in December 2017, it was agreed that an Intersessional Working Group be formed to compile the existing conservation and management measures for sharks and develop a single, comprehensive measure for discussion and potential adoption at WCPFC15 in 2018.

The Working Group, chaired by Japan, is taking a multi-phased approach towards the development of the measure. Phase 1 is compiling the current shark Conservation and Management Measures into a single measure. This will be followed by Phase 2 where potential improvements or changes will be considered for the measure. It is intended that a draft final measure will be presented to the Scientific Committee and Technical and Compliance Committee prior to consideration at the Commission meeting in December 2018.

New Zealand will continue to advocate for the adoption of effective, risk-based shark management measures at CCSBT and WCPFC.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements
- Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders
- Support the Shark Fin Ban Review
 - Accuracy of reporting, level of catch and landing destination code
 - Increased information available on catch and discard levels of shark species
 - Levels of compliance with Schedule 6 release conditions
- Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Sharks
- Advocate for and input into Pacific-wide stock assessment for key HMS sharks
- Support WCPFC to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Science: manage research process and provide advice on any management proposals
- Compliance: provide advice on any management proposals affecting compliance
- Legal: provide advice on any management proposals
- Stakeholders: provide input into consultation

BAU 2: ENGAGE WITH TANGATA WHENUA AND FISHERY STAKEHOLDERS

OVERVIEW

Sufficient and appropriate engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders, is an essential part of fisheries management. This objective ensures tangata whenua and stakeholders have access to information that will allow them to assess and provide input into how HMS fisheries are managed.

Stakeholder meetings: The Fish Plan Advisory Group meets twice a year to review the implementation of fisheries plans and the annual operational plan. The HMS team also hosts two longline workshops per year with the commercial surface longline fleet. The HMS team attends and participates in the Tuna Management Association general meeting.

We are actively seeking to improve input and participation of tangata whenua, through the provision of information too and attendance at relevant iwi fisheries fora .

We are also seeking to better engage Te Ohu Kaimoana , as representatives of a variety of iwi interests to enable iwi to better understand management proposals and to enable decision makers to make informed decisions. On the effects of proposals on iwi interests.

These meetings are used to discuss issues of high importance or urgency to fishers, tangata whenua, stakeholders and fisheries managers. This form of consultation is the primary way that stakeholders are able to express their views for consideration on the management of HMS fisheries.

Copies of HMS fisheries plan, annual operational plans and annual review reports are available on the Fisheries New Zealand website.

Communications: The Pelagic update is a newsletter sent to HMS stakeholders, and the next issue will be aimed to be released twice this year.

Social media is playing a larger role in communication of information to the general public. The HMS team will consider using MPI's and/or Fisheries New Zealand Facebook and Twitter platforms when releasing consultation documents and other relevant information.

The HMS team will aim to improve engagement and ensure the opportunity for input and participation for tangata whenua is provided. The HMS team will also continue to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives.

At the end of 2016, Fisheries Inshore New Zealand (FINZ) spread their coverage to HMS fisheries, providing HMS fishers with an industry representative who represents their interests and facilitates improved engagement between fishers, other stakeholders, and Fisheries New Zealand. The HMS team will continue to engage with the Fisheries Inshore New Zealand representative.

The HMS team will continue to support and communications with Protected Species Liaison Officers as they continue work with the surface longline fleet.

The HMS team will continue to work with the Recreational Management team when engaging with the recreational sector.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Host two Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings
- Host two Longline Workshops
- Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group
- Attend the Tuna Management Association annual general meeting
- Attend Iwi Fisheries Forums, when relevant

- Publish the Pelagic Update
- Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interest are affected.
- Inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational sector when relevant consultation papers have been released
- Maintain communications with FINZ HMS representative
- Maintain communications with Te Ohu Kaimoana
- Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme
- Increase engagement with recreational fishers by liaising with Fisheries New Zealand's Recreational Fishing team, including the use of the recreational mailing list
- Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures
- Arrange tangata whenua and stakeholder pre-meets ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Science: participate in meetings and workshops as required, e.g. Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops
- Observer Services: participate in meetings and workshops as required, e.g. Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops
- Compliance: participate in meetings and workshops as required, e.g. Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops
- International Policy: participate in meetings and workshops as required, e.g. Fish Plan Advisory Group meetings and Longline Workshops

BAU 3: MONITOR COMMERCIAL HMS FISHERIES

OVERVIEW

Commercial fisheries are monitored in order to provide data on fishing activity to inform decisions of fisheries managers. Monitoring commercial HMS fisheries is done via commercial reporting, observer coverage, compliance activities (i.e. port inspections and aerial patrols), and scientific research.

Observers collect detailed information on fishing operations, such as: comprehensive catch, effort and environmental information for each set; information on fishing methods and gear; including mitigation measures in use while fishing, biological measurements; and information on ecologically related species.

New Zealand has obligations to CCSBT and WCPFC to provide observer coverage as follows:

- **CCSBT** – a target of 10% catch and effort
- **WCPFC** – 100% coverage for purse seine vessels operating in the Convention Area, between 20° north and 20° south (observers are sourced from the WCPFC regional observer programme; for other methods operating on the high seas, a minimum of 5% coverage

sourced either from the regional observer programme or, if fishing is adjacent to the New Zealand exclusive economic zones boundary, from the national observer programme

The HMS Team plans coverage to provide full representation of the fisheries over area, time, target species, and operators. As required by CCSBT for southern bluefin tuna fisheries, 10% coverage of catch and effort is planned, and this is planned for all HMS fisheries. Planned observer coverage for HMS fisheries in 2017/18 is outlined in appendix section 6.1.

The Observer Services team manages observer coverage for all New Zealand commercial fisheries with the aim of achieving the planned coverage for each fishery. Limited resources can compromise achieving planned coverage, and therefore priority is given to new vessels entering the fishery, vessels not observed the previous year, high risk areas, and large effort operators.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Plan observer coverage to provide full representation of the fisheries
- Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage
- Achieve the observer coverage targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC
- Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips
- Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues
- Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures
- Monitor interactions with ecologically related species
- Attend observer de-briefs

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Observer Services: liaise with observers and fishers to deliver planned observer coverage; liaise with Fisheries Management, Science, and Compliance to provide feedback on observer coverage
- Science: lead improvements on observer data capture; liaise with observers on outcomes of coverage
- Compliance: monitor commercial and non-commercial HMS fisheries; and follow up on items of interest identified through observer coverage
- International Compliance: monitor international commercial HMS vessels

BAU 4: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

OVERVIEW

Key compliance areas for HMS fisheries include those relating to international obligations (e.g. the *Fisheries (Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme) Regulations 2017*), non-fish and protected species interactions (e.g. *Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation – Surface Longlines) Circular 2014*), and reporting requirements, (e.g. *Schedule 6 Stocks which may be returned to the sea in accordance with stated requirements*). HMS compliance priorities for 2018/19 are outlined in appendix section 6.2.

Robust monitoring to ensure high levels of voluntary compliance is essential in managing HMS fisheries and engaging with industry, environmental, and regional fisheries management organisations stakeholders.

The Observer Services team manage observer coverage, and the Compliance teams manage port inspections and at sea and aerial patrols. Observed or suspected incidents of non-compliance are referred to the Compliance team for follow up.

Monitoring and enforcement of compliance with management measures in HMS fisheries is challenging. Given the offshore nature of HMS fisheries, at-sea inspections can be challenging to achieve and aerial patrols involve significant resources and are subject to availability of defence force assets. As a result, it is important to achieve suitable observer coverage and conduct thorough in-port inspections to provide the information.

Aerial flights over the high seas and port inspections of international vessels (under Port State Measures) are coordinated by the Fisheries Compliance Liaison and Coordination Team in consultation with the International Team and HMS Fisheries Management.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Create systems for timely feedback between industry, DOC, Fisheries New Zealand business groups, and the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme
- Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures
- Administrate and monitor the catch documentation scheme for southern bluefin tuna
- Monitor quota management species record-keeping and reporting
- Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance
- Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues
- Raise awareness of issues at stakeholder meetings
- Compile a report of compliance outcomes in the Annual Review Report
- Ensure high seas permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Compliance: task aerial and at sea patrols and conduct port inspections, follow up incidents of non-compliance and take enforcement action where appropriate; provide support and engagement in regional fisheries management organisations, multilateral and regional work; provide compliance advice as required; engage with fishers as required; and attend relevant stakeholder meetings held by the HMS team
- Legal: provide advice as required
- Stakeholders: meet regulatory requirements for fishing; provide input and advice on how regulations could be improved; and raise awareness about potential issues

BAU 5: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT HMS RESEARCH PLAN

OVERVIEW

Research provides imperative information to inform fisheries management. The research required to manage HMS fisheries is contracted on an annual basis, based on the long-term planning done as part of the Five Year Medium Term Research Plan.

Research projects planned to begin or continue in 2018/19 are outlined in detail in appendix section 6.3.

Research projects beginning in the 2018/19 year include:

- Albacore catch sampling
- Characterisation of New Zealand longline fisheries for highly migratory species
- Characterisation of New Zealand fisheries for skipjack tuna
- Annual catch-at-age of southern bluefin tuna
- Estimation of recreational harvest of Southern Bluefin Tuna in New Zealand

There are also a number of on-going projects that are carried over from previous years including:

- Albacore catch sampling
- Albacore catch per unit effort analysis
- Data reports for New Zealand HMS fisheries
- Catch sampling of bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, swordfish and pacific bluefin tuna
- Shark fishery characterisation and indicators analysis
- Monitoring of striped marlin including logbook programme
- Catch per unit effort analysis for striped marlin recreational fishery
- Annual catch-at-age of southern bluefin tuna
- Data management from gamefish tagging programme

There are also other research projects coming up and underway that are relevant to the HMS team. However, these are administered under different works streams or different departments. These include risk assessments for seabirds and sharks, as well as the research under the Department of Conservation's Conservation Services Program.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Identify research needs for HMS fisheries
- Review proposed research projects
- Participate in the research planning process as required
- Finalise and agree to the HMS Research Plan, including any proposals for industry-led research
- Monitor 2018/19 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Science: run the research and assessment processes, including working group meetings
- Contracts Management: manage research contracts
- Stakeholders: participate in working group meetings to review assessments and research projects

BAU 6: CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MPI'S MOU ON PACIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

MPI has a supporting role providing technical assistance to develop Pacific countries' fisheries management and monitoring, control and surveillance capacity. MPI has signed a MOU with MFAT to deliver this work. The project aims to support PICs to maximise the economic and developmental benefits through the sustainable management and utilisation of their fisheries resources.

The main outputs for this work are:

- Provision of advice to PICs on strengthening governance
- Provision of fisheries management advice to Te Vaka Moana participants and other Pacific partners with which New Zealand has bilateral programmes
- Provision of technical monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement advice that will build capability of Pacific partners to design their own compliance frameworks to support fisheries management

The MOU team deliver these outputs on behalf of MPI. MPI facilitates and utilises internal fisheries administration expertise, contributing to strategic relationships with the Pacific Community (SPC) and Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) among others. These regional relationships are intended to ensure a coordinated and targeted approach to the provision of capacity building resources across Pacific countries.

MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Engage with and assist the Te Vaka Moana participants and countries with bilateral programmes through direct capacity building efforts
- Work with FFA to implement improved fisheries management for South Pacific albacore
- Direct capacity building projects and training with Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.
- Assist Tokelau in improving fisheries governance and management

ASSOCIATED SERVICES

- Science: provide science advice on Pacific capacity building
- Compliance: provide compliance advice on Pacific capacity building
- International Fisheries Management: coordinate implementation of MOU
- MFAT: monitor and engage on MOU implementation

5 Work plan for the HMS team for 2018/19

Q1 (JUL-SEP)	Q2 (OCT-DEC)	Q3 (JAN-MAR)	Q4 (APR-JUN)
KFA 1 Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with seabirds			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds • Monitor seabird captures using observer data and fisher reporting • Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures • Update seabird mitigation measures to reflect changes to the WCPFC seabird conservation and management measure • Provide a liaison role to Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Provide for the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate • Monitor seabird proxy measures • Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions • Support the Black Petrel Working Group • Monitor the impact of recreational HMS fisheries on seabird populations • Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds • Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations • Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure • Support the development of proposals to be presented at the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to strengthen the seabird conservation and management measure • Use existing cooperation MOU between MFAT and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds • Monitor seabird captures using observer data and fisher reporting • Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures • Review seabird mitigation measures in light of recent advice from ACAP on line weighting specifications • Provide a liaison role to Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Raise and provide information on issues at stakeholder meetings • Monitor seabird proxy measures • Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions • Prioritise observer coverage in the east coast North Island fishery where Antipodean albatrosses have been previously captured • Support the Black Petrel Working Group • Monitor the use of voluntary mitigation practices and innovation in mitigation gear • Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds • Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations • Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure • Support the development of proposals to be presented at the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to strengthen the seabird conservation and management measure • Use existing cooperation MOU between MFAT and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds • Monitor seabird captures using observer data and fisher reporting • Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures • Update seabird mitigation measures to reflect changes to the WCPFC seabird conservation and management measure • Review seabird mitigation measures in light of recent advice from ACAP on line weighting specifications • Provide a liaison role to Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Provide for the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate • Monitor seabird proxy measures • Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions • Prioritise observer coverage in the east coast North Island fishery where Antipodean albatrosses have been previously captured • Support the Black Petrel Working Group • Monitor the use of voluntary mitigation practices and innovation in mitigation gear • Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds • Continue to seek improvements to data capture and sharing on bycatch species across regional fisheries management organisations • Use existing cooperation MOU between MFAT and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the review of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds • Monitor seabird captures using observer data and fisher reporting • Monitor compliance with seabird mitigation measures • Provide a liaison role to Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Raise and provide information on issues at stakeholder meetings • Provide for the trial and use of alternative seabird mitigation strategies as appropriate • Monitor seabird proxy measures • Lead and contribute to the Antipodean Albatross Working Group and deliver on agreed actions • Support the Black Petrel Working Group • Monitor the use of voluntary mitigation practices and innovation in mitigation gear • Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds • Use existing cooperation MOU between MFAT and Fisheries New Zealand to help Small Island Developing States develop National Plans of Action for Seabirds

KFA 2 Contribute to international processes through regional fisheries management organisations			
<p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Extended Scientific Committee meeting Arrange stakeholder pre-meetings Support and advocate all Members accounting for all sources of mortality Support the European Union in drafting the Ecologically Related Species Resolution Draft a proposal to improve the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds <p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend E-Reporting and E-Monitoring Working Group, Scientific Committee meeting, and Technical and Compliance Committee meeting Arrange stakeholder pre-meets Support International Fisheries Management in participating in work on developing the long term target reference point for albacore and the albacore road map Support International Fisheries Management engagement in the WCPFC intersessional working group on sharks, and the development of a more comprehensive shark CMM. Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure Support International Fisheries Management in advocating for precautionary management actions for the bigeye fishery as part of the Tropical Tuna Measure negotiations 	<p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Compliance Committee and Commission meeting Arrange stakeholder pre-meetings Support and advocate all Members accounting for all sources of mortality Support the European Union in drafting the Ecologically Related Species Resolution Draft a proposal to improve the effectiveness of the Compliance Committee Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds <p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend FAD Management Options Intersessional Working Group and Commission meeting Arrange stakeholder pre-meets Support International Fisheries Management in participating in work on developing the long term target reference point for albacore and the albacore road map Support International Fisheries Management engagement in the WCPFC intersessional working group on sharks, and the development of a more comprehensive shark CMM. Support International Fisheries Management in preparing proposals for WCPFC to amend seabird conservation and management measure Support International Fisheries Management in advocating for precautionary management actions for the bigeye fishery as part of the Tropical Tuna Measure negotiations 	<p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend the Ecologically Related Species Working Group meeting Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds <p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support International Fisheries Management in participating in work on developing the long term target reference point for albacore and the albacore road map Support International Fisheries Management in advocating for precautionary management actions for the bigeye fishery as part of the Tropical Tuna Measure negotiations 	<p>CCSBT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advocate for precautionary management objectives in the development of the new management procedure Support Science on identifying 'high risk areas' for seabirds and progressing the Southern Hemisphere Risk Assessment for seabirds <p>WCPFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support International Fisheries Management in participating in work on developing the long term target reference point for albacore and the albacore road map Support International Fisheries Management in advocating for precautionary management actions for the bigeye fishery as part of the Tropical Tuna Measure negotiations
KFA 3 Strengthen management of non-commercial HMS fisheries			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with commercial and recreational stakeholders to resolve inter-sector conflict Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives. and recognise the economic and inherent value of game fisheries to New Zealand Review the recreational allowance for southern bluefin tuna as part of the 1 October Sustainability round 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with commercial and recreational stakeholders to resolve inter-sector conflict Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives Implement recreational management constraints for southern bluefin tuna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take into account recreational interests when making fisheries management decisions Work with Fisheries New Zealand's recreational fisheries team to improve communication with recreational stakeholders Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives Implement recreational management constraints for southern bluefin tuna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report in the annual review report on trends, tag and release data, charter vessel reporting and CPUE from logbooks Work with Fisheries New Zealand's recreational fisheries team to improve communication with recreational stakeholders Improve engagement with iwi through attending relevant iwi forums and continuing to work with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives Take into account recreational interests in making fisheries management decisions

Q1 (JUL-SEP)	Q2 (OCT-DEC)	Q3 (JAN-MAR)	Q4 (APR-JUN)
BAU 1 Manage interactions of HMS fisheries with sharks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements • Support the Shark Fin Ban Review • Contribute to the review of National Plan of Action for Sharks • Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders • Advocate for and input into Pacific-wide stock assessment for key HMS sharks • Support WCPFC to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements • Support the Shark Fin Ban Review • Contribute to the review of National Plan of Action for Sharks • Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders • Advocate for and input into Pacific-wide stock assessment for key HMS sharks • Support WCPFC to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements • Support industry to develop best practice guidelines for 'Safe Handling and Release' of sharks in longline and purse seine fisheries • Contribute to the review of National Plan of Action for Sharks • Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders • Support WCPFC to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fishers are aware of regulatory requirements • Contribute to the review of National Plan of Action for Sharks • Monitor shark catches using observer data, catch effort reporting, and direct feedback from stakeholders • Support WCPFC to develop a comprehensive shark and ray conservation and management measure
BAU 2 Engage fishery stakeholders			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish 'Pelagic Update' newsletter • Maintain communication with HMS FINZ • Support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group • Attend Iwi Fisheries Forums, when relevant • Inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational mailing list when relevant consultation papers have been released • Maintain communications with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives • Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interest are affected. • Increase engagement with recreational fishers by liaising with The inshore fisheries management team, including the use of the recreational mailing list • Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures • Arrange tangata whenua and stakeholder pre-meets ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Fish Plan Advisory Group meeting to discuss annual review report and research needs • Host Longline Workshop • Stakeholder pre-meets for regional fisheries management organisations meetings • Maintain communication with HMS FINZ • Support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Attend the Tuna Management Association annual general meeting • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group • Attend Iwi Fisheries Forums, when relevant • Inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational mailing list when relevant consultation papers have been released • Maintain communications with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives • Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interest are affected. • Increase engagement with recreational fishers by liaising with inshore fisheries management team, including the use of the recreational mailing list • Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures • Arrange tangata whenua and stakeholder pre-meets ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish 'Pelagic Update' newsletter • Provide for iwi input and participation into annual planning • Maintain communication with HMS FINZ • Support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group • Attend Iwi Fisheries Forums, when relevant • Inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational mailing list when relevant consultation papers have been released • Maintain communications with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives • Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interest are affected. • Increase engagement with recreational fishers by liaising with inshore fisheries management team, including the use of the recreational mailing list • Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures • Arrange tangata whenua and stakeholder pre-meets ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host Fish Plan Advisory Group meeting to discuss the annual operational plan • Host Longline Workshop • Consult on and publish 2018-2019 annual operational plan • Maintain communication with HMS FINZ • Support Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Lead the Antipodean Albatross Working Group • Attend Iwi Fisheries Forums, when relevant • Inform tangata whenua, stakeholders and the recreational mailing list when relevant consultation papers have been released • Maintain communications with Te Ohu Kaimoana representatives • Provide for early opportunities for tangata whenua to have input and participate in the development of proposals where their interest are affected. • Increase engagement with recreational fishers by liaising with inshore fisheries management team, including the use of the recreational mailing list • Conduct statutory consultation as required under the Fisheries Act, for changes to sustainability or regulatory measures • Arrange tangata whenua and stakeholder pre-meets ahead of regional fisheries management organisations meetings

BAU 3 Monitor commercial HMS fisheries			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver observer coverage as outlined in appendix section 6.1 • Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage • Achieve the observer coverage targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC • Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips • Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Monitor interactions with ecologically related species • Attend observer de-briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver observer coverage as outlined in appendix section 6.1 • Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage • Achieve the observer coverage targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC • Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips • Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Monitor interactions with ecologically related species • Attend observer de-briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver observer coverage as outlined in appendix section 6.1 • Plan observer coverage to provide full representation of the fisheries • Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage • Achieve the observer coverage targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC • Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips • Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Monitor interactions with ecologically related species • Attend observer de-briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver observer coverage as outlined in appendix section 6.1 • Plan observer coverage to provide full representation of the fisheries • Inform Observer Services and industry of the priority vessels and areas for observer coverage • Achieve the observer coverage targets set by CCSBT and WCPFC • Improve compliance-related feedback from observers to permit holders after observed trips • Liaise with Compliance on monitoring activities and current issues • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Monitor interactions with ecologically related species • Attend observer de-briefs
BAU 4 Ensure HMS compliance with management measures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create systems for timely feedback between industry, DOC, Fisheries New Zealand business groups, and the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Administrate and monitor the catch documentation scheme for southern bluefin tuna • Monitor quota management species record-keeping and reporting • Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance • Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Administrate and monitor the catch documentation scheme for southern bluefin tuna • Monitor quota management species record-keeping and reporting • Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance • Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues • Raise awareness of issues at stakeholder meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Administrate and monitor the catch documentation scheme for southern bluefin tuna • Monitor quota management species record-keeping and reporting • Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance • Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues • Compile a report of compliance outcomes in the Annual Review Report • Ensure high seas permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor compliance of commercial HMS fishing vessels with management measures • Administrate and monitor the catch documentation scheme for southern bluefin tuna • Monitor quota management species record-keeping and reporting • Appropriate follow-up with observed non-compliance • Liaise with the Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme about potential compliance issues • Raise awareness of issues at stakeholder meetings • Compile a report of compliance outcomes in the Annual Review Report • Ensure high seas permits are in line with the requirements of the relevant regional fisheries management organisations

BAU 5 Develop and implement HMS Research Plan			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify research needs for HMS fisheries Monitor 2018/19 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify research needs for HMS fisheries Monitor 2018/19 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed research projects Participate in the research planning process as required Monitor 2018/19 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed research projects Participate in the research planning process as required Finalise and agree to the HMS Research Plan, including any proposals for industry-led research Monitor 2018/19 research projects to ensure delivery remains on track to provide results that will support fisheries management
BAU 6 Contribute to the implementation of Fisheries New Zealand's MOU on Pacific capacity development			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with and assist the Te Vaka Moana participants and countries with bilateral programmes through direct capacity building efforts Work with FFA to implement improved fisheries management for South Pacific albacore Direct capacity building projects and training with Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Assist Tokelau in improving fisheries governance and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with and assist the Te Vaka Moana participants and countries with bilateral programmes through direct capacity building efforts Work with FFA to implement improved fisheries management for South Pacific albacore Direct capacity building projects and training with Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Assist Tokelau in improving fisheries governance and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with and assist the Te Vaka Moana participants and countries with bilateral programmes through direct capacity building efforts Work with FFA to implement improved fisheries management for South Pacific albacore Direct capacity building projects and training with Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Assist Tokelau in improving fisheries governance and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with and assist the Te Vaka Moana participants and countries with bilateral programmes through direct capacity building efforts Work with FFA to implement improved fisheries management for South Pacific albacore Direct capacity building projects and training with Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Assist Tokelau in improving fisheries governance and management

6 Appendix

PLANNED OBSERVER DAYS FOR HMS FISHERIES FOR 2018/19

HMS observer days are allocated to reflect the effort in the identified fishery groupings. The table below reflects the proportion of effort expended in each target fleet. Observer days were allocated according to the days available for those target fisheries to achieve 10% coverage for surface longline fisheries, and the days allocated to each month proportionally.

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL DAYS
Tuna longline ET – WCPFC	10									5	5		20
BIG/SWO surface longline EC	19	46	22		8	14	26	24	23	28	26	30	266
BIG/SWO surface longline WC		5						7	21	27	26	20	107
STN surface longline EC	27	54	17								25	40	164
STN surface longline WC	16	19							13	29	24	27	128
SKJ purse seine							25	25	20				70
SKJ super seiner									30				30
TOTAL HMS													853

EC	East coast
WC	West coast
STN	Southern bluefin tuna
BIG	Bigeye tuna
SWO	Swordfish
SKJ	Skipjack tuna
ET	Out-of-zone
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

HMS COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES FOR 2018/19

Outcome	Specific Priorities
Integrity of the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone is maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial patrols are conducted • At-sea patrols are conducted • Breaches are followed-up
Compliance with regional fisheries management organisations measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High seas permits are in line with CCSBT and WCPFC requirements • Fishers are compliant with high seas permits
Compliance with the CCSBT catch documentation scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine unload inspections are conducted • Fishers and Licenced Fish Receivers are compliant with southern bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme requirements
Surface longline fishery compliance with seabird mitigation regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are compliant with tori line requirements • Fishers are compliant with using two out of three mitigation measures (tori lines being one of those): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tori lines and night setting 2. Tori lines and line weighting • Line weighting is used according to the specifications
Compliance with protected species rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers accurately report non-fish and protected species bycatch • Compliance assess and follow-up inaccurate reporting where necessary
Accurate reporting of shark catches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishers are compliant with landing of sharks and fins in the required ratios • Fishers are compliant with reporting of 6th Schedule releases and dead returns of sharks
High seas compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on mitigation on vessels boarded as part of Operation Nasse (especially for those vessels that have been fishing south of 30 degrees south) • Report on mitigation present on pelagic longline vessels during port inspections (especially for those vessels that have been fishing south of 30 degrees south) • Aerial patrols are conducted of vessels fishing south of 30 degrees south to detect the use of tori lines when vessels are day setting

HMS RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR 2018/19

TABLE 1. PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS.

Code	Title	Rationale
ALB2018-01	Albacore catch sampling	Results will be used to monitor the status of the South Pacific albacore stock on an annual basis and as an input to the next albacore assessment update scheduled for 2021 (ongoing, annual).
HMS2018-01	Characterisation of New Zealand longline fisheries for highly migratory species	Results will be used to characterise spatial and temporal trends in catch and effort for target and bycatch species in the New Zealand fisheries for highly migratory species due to changes in fishing gear and practices (once every 3-5 years).
SKJ2018-01	Characterisation of New Zealand fisheries for skipjack tuna	Results will be used to characterise the fisheries for skipjack tuna in New Zealand fisheries waters, for New Zealand vessels fishing in other exclusive economic zones and for New Zealand vessels fishing on the high seas (once every 3-5 years).
STN2018-01	Annual catch-at-age of STN	Data used as inputs to stock assessments; the next update scheduled in 2020 (ongoing, annual).
SEA2018-09 (STN2018-03)	Estimation of recreational harvest of Southern Bluefin Tuna in New Zealand	To improve the estimates of the recreational catch and size composition of southern bluefin tuna (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>) in New Zealand fisheries waters. (short term- focused project)

TABLE 2. CONTINUATION OF ONGOING PROJECTS.

Code	Title	Rationale
ALB2015-01	Albacore catch sampling	Results will be used in 2018 assessment update (ongoing, annual).
ALB2017-01	ALB CPUE analysis	The NZ target albacore troll fishery is the only fishery catching small albacore in the SW Pacific. This project will determine if data from the NZ troll fishery are useful in the next assessment update in 2018 (short-term, focused project).
HMS2016-01	Data reports for NZ HMS fisheries	Annual data reports to the two relevant tuna regional fisheries management organisations – CCSBT and WCPFC (ongoing, annual).
HMS2017-01	Catch sampling of BIG, YFN, SWO, TOR	Catch sampling results are inputs to the stock assessments of these species by WCPFC. These species assessments will be updated over the next 3 years (ongoing, annual).
SHA2017-01	Shark fishery characterisation and indicators analysis	The most recent shark fishery characterisation and indicators analysis was conducted in 2012/13 and used as inputs to WCPFC analyses. The results of this proposed project will be used in the WCPFC update in 2019 (as determined by WCPFC schedule).
STM2016-01	Monitoring of STM including logbook programme	Ongoing, annual implementation of STM recreational monitoring programme including the implementation of the logbook programme (ongoing, annual).
STM2017-01	CPUE analysis for STM recreational fishery	Catch and effort data for STM are one of the main data inputs for its assessment. This project will determine if data from the NZ recreational fishery are useful in the next assessment update in 2019 (short-term, focused project).
STN2016-01	Annual catch-at-age of STN	Data used as inputs to stock assessments; the next update scheduled for 2020 (ongoing, annual).
TAG2016-01	Data management from gamefish tagging programme	Ongoing, annual programme that has been running for more than 40 years (ongoing, annual).