Template for the compilation of information describing associated and dependant species in the southern Pacific Ocean

NOTE: This template aims to identify associated and dependent species (e.g. turtles, marine mammals and seabirds) that are at risk due to the indirect effects of fishing within the high seas of the South Pacific.

Common name (*Genus and species*)

<Insert Picture>

1. Overview

A brief abstract/summary of the profile provided in the sections below. This should be a comprehensive one-page summary for the species affected directly and indirectly by fishing.

2. Taxonomy

2.1 Phylum

2.2 Class

2.3 Order

2.4 Family

2.5 Genus and Species

2.6 Scientific Synonyms

2.7 Common Names

2.8 Molecular (DNA or biochemical) bar coding

If available, refer to the Bar Coding of Life Project, GENBANK accession number and/or the FishBOL (http://www.fishbol.org/) accession number.

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Global distribution and depth range

A one paragraph general summary.

3.2 Distribution within the South Pacific area

This should include descriptions of distributions on the high seas and within EEZ(s) where possible and details of migratory species ranges. Features such as migrations through the area into adjoining areas and EEZs should be highlighted.

3.3 General habitat

For example, is its habitat benthic, pelagic, terrestrial for reproduction, seamount, sedimentary, oceanic ridge or biogenic (e.g. coral reefs, mussel beds) etc?

3.4 Biological characteristics

Include a description of morphology and life history; in particular life-history characteristics that affect the species resilience to increases in mortality from fishing. This may also include a general relative measure of the potential productivity of the species and/or population in relation to its biological characteristics (based on the assumption that productivity and resilience are directly related).

This should also include information about the timing of the species overlap with fisheries, which may result in seasonal increases in fishing mortality.

3.5 Behaviour

What behaviours are documented that suggest vulnerability to fishing - e.g. diving depth, diurnal activity, opportunistic feeding.

3.6 Role of Species in the Ecosystem

Is the species a key prey species? Is it a predator? What trophic level does the species occupy? Has a trophic relationship analysis describing the prey and predator species to which it relates to and the prey/predator mechanisms been undertaken? Does this information support the design of mitigation measures to avoid negative impacts of fishing?

3.7 Population Structure

This should clearly describe the existence of distinct populations or sub-populations of the species in the South Pacific area (e.g. where breeding site fidelity means some populations are negatively impacted by a fishery whereas others are not).

3.8 Species and/or population size

A general measure of the current population(s) size.

This should be detailed as numbers of individuals, biomass, area covered or other measure that indexes population size.

4. Interactions with fisheries

4.1 Spatial and seasonal extent of interactions

Which fisheries does this species overlap with? Is there a particular season, area or fishing method that poses the greatest threat?

4.2 Fishing Technology

Describe the fishing technologies that pose a threat to the species. Describe technological details of the use of mitigation devices.

4.3 Incidental mortality from fishing

Where available provide estimates of incidental mortality from fishing by flag, fishing method, geographical location and season/year.

5. Risk assessment

5.1 Species and/or population trends

A general measure of the current species and/or population size (refer 3.8), along with any indication that the size is changing, and the nature of such change. This should be detailed as numbers of individuals, biomass, area covered or other measure that indexes species and/or population size.

5.2 Species and/or population status

A general measure of the current status of the species and/or populations, for example the current size relative to past levels, CITES or CMS listing criteria and IUCN threat status.

5.3 Fishing impacts on species and/or population status

Levels of direct or indirect fishing impacts as they relate to species and/or population status, including incidental mortality at the level of particular fisheries, areas, and seasons.

5.4 Non-Fishing impacts on population status

Levels of non-fisheries impacts as they relate to species and/or population status, e.g. breeding habitat loss.

5.5 Quantifications of risk

Are documented risk assessments and/or quantifications of the relative effects of fisheries and other incidental mortality available? What is the prognosis for the species' viability taking into account the impacts of fishing?

6. Management

6.1 Management of fishing threats

Detail existing management measures and the fishery specific, spatial or seasonal application of such measures.

6.2 Management of Threats Other Than Fishing

Detail existing measures mitigating non-fisheries impacts especially where they are complimentary to fisheries specific measures.

6.3 Management Implications

What are the implications for the future status of the species based on current impacts and current management of fishing impact on this species and/or populations? The intention is that cause and effect are elucidated rather than management advice. For example:

Based on the reported high levels of incidental fishing mortality and the limited non-fisheries impacts, the population status is likely to get worse.

What are the implications for the future status of the species if current fishing practices and non-fisheries impacts continue? For example:

Under current management, the high levels of incidental fishing mortality and the limited non-fisheries impacts, population decline is likely to continue.

7. Research

7.1 Current and ongoing research

7.2 Future Research Needs

This should identify research gaps and list priorities where appropriate. How would such research address the identified gaps? How would such research address recognised threats, and in particular, risk from fishing?

8. Additional Comments

9. References