



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
SIXTH REGULAR SESSION**

Nuku'alofa, Tonga
10-19 August 2010

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION OF WCPFC AND ISC DATA HOLDINGS

WCPFC-SC6-2010/ST-WP-03 (Rev.2)

13 August 2010

Prepared by WCPFC Secretariat

1. Background

The WCPFC commissioned a consultancy to review its transitional science structure and functions. The consultancy was carried out by UK based Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG), with a report provided to the WCPF Commission in June 2009 titled *Final report of the Independent Review of the Commission's science structure and function*¹.

At the fifth regular session of the WCPFC meeting in December 2008, the Commission requested the development of a strategy to incorporate ISC data into the WCPFC data holdings (paragraph 64, WCPFC5 Summary Report). The ninth meeting of the ISC determined that there was no need for incorporation of this data into WCPFC holdings as WCPFC already holds most of the data held by the ISC. It was considered that any remaining data may be privileged only to ISC members due to ISC member confidentiality rules and that some data may only be relevant to areas beyond the WCPF Convention Area. However, ISC9 considered the exchange of data inventories as an appropriate step to identify data gaps and as a process of periodic consultation to review consistency between datasets.

The sixth regular session of the WCPFC in December 2009, endorsed recommendations relating to data for North Pacific stocks, made by the fifth regular session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC5) held in August 2009, as a result of recommendations made in the MRAG report. SC5 recommended that:

- a) The WCPFC Secretariat provide ISC with an inventory of Commission data holdings for North Pacific stocks by ISC10
- b) The WCPFC Secretariat, ISC, SPC-OFP², and interested CCMs complete a reconciliation of ISC and Commission data holdings for North Pacific stocks, to identify any data gaps by 1 October 2010.
- c) The WCPFC Secretariat and ISC collaborate to exchange data, address data gaps for North Pacific stocks, subject to the Commission's Rules and Procedures for the Protection of, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Provided to the Commission and the rules and procedures governing data exchange that are contained within ISC's operations manual; and

¹ <http://www.wcpfc.int/doc/gn-wp-07/mrag-final-project-report-independent-review-commission%C3%A2%E2%82%AC%E2%84%A2s-transitional-science-structur>

² Oceanic Fisheries Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

- d) The ISC and the WCPFC Secretariat establish a mechanism for the periodic exchange of data to address gaps in the data for North Pacific stocks.

2. Provision of WCPFC data inventory to ISC

In June 2010 the provision of the WCPFC data inventory to the ISC Statistics Working Group Chairman was completed. The ISC data inventory with WCPFC data inventory was provided at the SC6 meeting and this now allows a reconciliation of the data to proceed.

3. ISC10 Response

The Secretariat provided the Draft Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data between WCPFC and ISC (Attachment A, the Secretariat's proposal) to ISC10, which will be considered after SC's review. Though ISC recognises the value of sharing data inventories and identifying data gaps for North Pacific Ocean, it would take time to collaborate with WCPFC in addressing data gaps because ISC recently hired a permanent Data Administrator (DA) and initiated compiling all database requirements and producing and sharing data inventories to exchange with WCPFC.

The permanent ISC DA, located in Japan, was selected, allowing comprehensive activities to be initiated in relation to collection, monitoring and management of the ISC data. The ISC DA will work on the recovery of historically missing data with relevant Members of the ISC and produce a more complete data inventory for review in the ISC Statistics Working Group in July 2011, which then will be provided to WCPFC.

4. Draft mechanism for the periodic exchange of data to address data gaps

A few options were considered as mechanisms to address data gaps:

- Establishing a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data between WCPFC and ISC
- Convene an Annual Consultation Meeting between WCPFC and ISC, and possibly IATTC.

Both options will focus on reviewing data inventories, data gaps/inconsistencies and determining the causes of such gaps. However, during the ISC10 meeting, the ISC informally expressed that it preferred the second option. In this context, details regarding the exchange of updated data inventories, data gaps and consultation meeting arrangements may be discussed during SC6.

Attachment A

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON THE EXCHANGE AND RELEASE OF DATA

between

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**

and

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the International Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species (hereafter ISC):

NOW THEREFORE the **WCPFC** and **ISC** confirm the following conditions for the exchange and release of data from fisheries which capture highly migratory fish species in the area north of 20 degrees north latitude within the Pacific Ocean:

1. CONDITIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF DATA

- (a) Subject to fulfilling internal requirements of each organization regarding data confidentiality and information security, both organizations exchange equivalent data on a reciprocal basis, and maintain the data in a manner consistent with the security standards established by each organization.
- (b) The conditions in paragraph (a) above shall apply to all data as specified below to be disseminated to the other organization.
- (c) The historical data of fishing activities prior to the data of the signature of this Memorandum of Cooperation shall be disclosed, confirmed or used only for scientific purposes.

2. TYPES OF DATA

(a) OPERATIONAL LEVEL DATA

Operational-level tuna fisheries data includes catch and effort (including by-catch of mammals, turtles, sharks and billfish), observer, unloading, transshipment and port inspection data.

(b) AGGREGATED CATCH / EFFORT DATA

Aggregated catch and effort data includes:

- i) Data for longline gear aggregated by flag State by 5° latitude and by 5° longitude by month;
- ii) Data for surface gear (including purse seine) aggregated by flag State by 1° latitude and by 1° longitude by month; and
- iii) Aggregated observer data (made up of observations from a minimum of three vessels).

(c) AGGREGATE SIZE DATA

Length and/or weight composition data that are representative of catches by the fisheries at the finest possible resolution of time period and geographic area and at least as fine as periods of quarter and areas of 20° longitude and 10° latitude.

(d) OTHER DATA

Monitoring, control, surveillance, inspection and enforcement data includes:

- i) The names and other markings of 'Vessels Of Interest' to each organization subject to this memorandum; and
- ii) Transhipment verification reports for vessels transhipping in the area of application of one organization but which have fished within the area of application of the other.

3. OTHERS

This cooperation on the exchange and release of data may be modified by mutual consent.

Either organization may end this cooperation on the exchange of data by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other organization.

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the International Scientific Committee for tuna and tuna-like species in the North Pacific Ocean:

[Chairman], WCPFC
Date: _____

[Chairman], ISC
Date: _____