



THIRD REGULAR SESSION
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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION**

WCPFC3-2006/10
31 October 2006

Introduction

1. This annual report has been prepared in accordance with Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. During 2006 the work of the Commission included:

- monitoring progress with implementation of Conservation and Management Measures and Resolutions adopted at the Second Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC2);
- implementing the programme of work approved at WCPFC2. Key elements of this included work associated with the Ad Hoc Task Group [Data], progressing the development of the Commission's regional observer programme, the vessel monitoring system, and high seas boarding and inspection scheme, initial work on allocation of tuna resources in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO);
- convening the Second Regular Sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies: the Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee and the Northern Committee;
- engagement and consultation with other organisations including the FAO, Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT); and
- establishing logistic and administrative support functions at the office of the Secretariat at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

Ad Hoc Task Group [Data]

2. The AHTG [Data], established by the Commission at its December 2005 Session and open to the participation of all Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs), was required to consider data types, data confidentiality, and to develop draft rules and procedures for the security and confidentiality of WCPFC data. The AHTG [Data] met at Manila, Philippines 31 July to 4 August 2006. It was chaired by Mr Kim Duckworth from New Zealand and was attended by twelve CCMs, the FFA and SPC-OFP.

3. The AHTG [Data] provided advice and technical recommendations to the Commission in relation to:

- the types of information to be treated as confidential;
- risk associated with the alteration, loss or unauthorized access to WCPFC data;
- guiding principles required for the rules and procedures for the access to and dissemination of data;
- data security and data security standards;
- further elaboration of an Information Security Policy for the Commission;
- the need for a framework for access to non-public domain data by CCMs;
- further consideration of historical data and the role of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC); and
- Draft Rules and Procedures for Access to and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission.

4. The Summary Report, including advice and recommendations of the AHTG [Data], will be considered during WCPFC3.

Scientific Committee

5. The Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee (SC2) met at Manila, Philippines from 7-18 August 2006. It was chaired by Dr Dae-Yeon Moon from Korea. All CCMs, except for Canada, attended the meeting.

6. The Commission's interim provider of data management services, SPC-OFP, reported that the provisional total tuna catch for 2005 from the WCPO was 2,145,367 metric tonnes (mt) comprising skipjack - 1,443,127 mt (67%), yellowfin - 423,468 mt (20%), bigeye - 163,419 mt (8%) and albacore - 115,353 mt (5%). This was a record tuna catch recorded for the WCPO – an increase of 5% on the catch reported in 2004.

7. The SC2 considered new assessments of the status of bigeye, yellowfin, South Pacific albacore and South-west swordfish and provided recommendations and technical advice in relation to levels of fishing mortality to maintain stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield. In summary:

- *Bigeye tuna*: Overfishing of bigeye tuna has been occurring though the stock is not in an overfished state. The longline fishery has the greatest impact on this species. SC2 recommended a 25% reduction in fishing mortality for bigeye tuna from the average levels for 2001–2004.
- *Yellowfin tuna*: Overfishing is occurring in the WCPO but the stock is not yet in an overfished state. The Indonesian and Philippines domestic fisheries are considered to have the greatest impact on the status of this stock. SC2 recommended a 10% reduction in fishing mortality for yellowfin from the average levels for 2001–2004.
- *Skipjack tuna*: No assessment was undertaken in 2006 (the last assessment was undertaken in 2005). The existing level of catch is considered to be sustainable unless recruitment persistently falls below the long term average.
- *South Pacific albacore*: The 2005 assessment was updated by SC2. Overall, fishery impacts on the total biomass are low (10%), although considerably higher impacts occur for the portion of the population vulnerable to longline. SC2 did not vary its advice provided to the Commission last year in respect that the current catch levels appear to be sustainable and yield analyses suggest that increases in fishing mortality and yields are possible. However, given the age-specific mortality of the longline fleets, any significant increase in effort is forecast to reduce CPUE to low levels with only moderate increases in yields.

- *Swordfish in the southwest Pacific*: Total and spawning biomass are probably above B_{MSY} and fishing mortality is probably below F_{MSY} . SC2 recommended that there be no increases in fishing mortality on this stock.
 - *Striped marlin in the southwest Pacific*: Current fishing mortality may approximate or exceed F_{MSY} and current spawning biomass may approximate or be below B_{MSY} . The Committee recommended that there should be no increase in fishing mortality particularly to the area encompassing the Coral Sea and the Tasman Sea.
8. The meeting outcomes on other key issues were as follows:
- *Bycatch*: SC2 recommended specific mitigation measures in relation to sea turtles and sea birds, a minimum observer coverage of 5%, the types of data to be collected in relation to seabirds, shark by-catch research priorities and developed a data collection and research programme for sea turtles.
 - *Data*: The Committee recommended that the Secretariat develop a list of data fields to be collected by observers for purse seine and longline fisheries, commission the drafting of objectives and priorities for observer data for fisheries other than purse seine and longline, develop a framework for access to non-public domain data by CCMs and further develop an Information Security Policy.
 - *IPDCP*: It was recommended that the Commission provide funding support to the IPDCP through the core budget.
 - *Tagging initiative*: A Steering Committee be established to plan the Phase II component of the project that commenced during 2006 in Papua New Guinea;
 - *Special requirements*: The Scientific Committee recommended the continuation of stock assessment workshops for small island developing states and participating territories conducted by SPC.
 - *Work programme*: SC2 recommended a Strategic Research Plan (2007–2011) and a work programme and budget for 2007 (and an indicative budget for 2008) for the Commission's approval. The level of total budget from core funding for 2007 is \$593,000, including \$278,000 to support data management and scientific services from the SPC-OFF; and
 - *Administrative matters*: SC2 agreed to Rules of Procedure and a process, terms of reference and schedule for the proposed independent review of the scientific structure and functions of the Commission. These are to be presented for adoption at the WCPFC3. SC2 recommended that its next meeting be convened 13-24 August 2007, at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
9. All CCMs had submitted to the Secretariat Part 1 [Information of Fisheries, Research and Statistics] of their Annual Report to the Commission by the end of September 2006.
10. The SC2 Summary Report, including advice, recommendations and the proposed two-year work programme and budget of the Scientific Committee will be considered during WCPFC3.

Technical and Compliance Committee

11. The Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC2) met at Brisbane, Australia 28 September to 3 October 2006 chaired by Mr Apolosi Turaganivalu from Fiji. All CCMs, except Indonesia, were represented at TCC2.

12. TCC2 agreed the three priority monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) issues for the Commission were:

- i. Commission Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);
- ii. Regional Observer Programme; and
- iii. High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures.

11. Other matters identified as requiring the attention of the Technical and Compliance Committee included: by-catch mitigation; review of Decisions of the Commission relating to the functions of the TCC; mechanisms to monitor compliance, and sanctions; transshipment; port State measures; and a catch documentation scheme.

13. TCC2 also deliberated on, and subsequently prepared advice and technical recommendations to the Commission, in relation to:

- the information requirements, format and submission deadline for the Part 2 reports;
- the number of vessels on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels that operate in other oceans and do not engage in fishing activities in the WCPO;
- the relationship between the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, the Regional Observer Programme and the Commission VMS;
- the requirement to provide the Secretariat with details for any change in the information contained in CCM's national records of fishing vessels authorized to fish on the high seas in the Convention Area within 15 days of any change in that information;
- The absence of a unique vessel identifier (the WIN) from many vessel records submitted to the Secretariat;
- A process to monitor and assess vessel and CCM compliance with the Convention and the Decisions of the Commission;
- The Commission vessel monitoring system, including high level minimum standards for automatic location communicators;
- The regional observer programme and a proposal to establish an inter-sessional working group to progress that activity;
- high seas boarding and inspection;
- fishing by non-CCM flag vessels in the Convention Area;
- port State measures and future work in relation to harmonisation of port State measures;
- charter arrangements, transshipment verification and the status of existing exemptions for transshipment at sea;
- catch documentation;
- a proposed IUU vessel list;
- by-catch mitigation in respect of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, sea birds and sea turtles;
- election of a new Chair of the Technical and Compliance Committee; and
- Rules of Procedure for the future operation of the Technical and Compliance Committee.

14. By the end of October 2006, 22 CCMs had submitted to the Secretariat Part 2 of their Annual Report to the Commission: Management and Compliance. Because not all Part 2 reports were available at the start of the Session there was insufficient time for the Secretariat to prepare an overview of their contents for TCC2 so that they could be discussed in detail. The revised draft template for Part 2 reports prepared by the meeting is intended to assist

CCMs submit their respective reports by 31 July each year so that in future the Secretariat can prepare an overview of all reports for presentation to the TCC.

15. Although TCC2 agreed that the Commission's key technical and compliance issues are the Commission VMS, Regional Observer Programme (ROP), and High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures, only the Commission VMS, and High Seas Boarding and Inspection Procedures appear to have a realistic opportunity to be significantly progressed at WCPFC3. Unless an alternative process is agreed, the earliest opportunity for the Technical and Compliance Committee to consider a draft Conservation and Management Measure for implementing the ROP is at its annual meeting in late 2007.

16. The TCC2 Summary Report, including advice and recommendations and proposed work programme of the TCC will be considered during WCPFC3.

Northern Committee

17. The Second Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC2) met at Tokyo, Japan 11-13 September 2006. It was chaired by Mr Masanori Miyahara from Japan. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, United States of America, and Chinese Taipei as well as the observers from the Cook Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, and Russian Federation. An application for membership of the Northern Committee by Cook Islands was endorsed by NC2.

18. NC2 deliberated on, and subsequently prepared advice and technical recommendations to the Commission, in relation to:

- stock and data gaps impacting assessments for northern stocks undertaken by the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean;
- conservation and management measures for north Pacific albacore;
- data provision and data gaps relating to Pacific bluefin;
- sea bird by-catch mitigation;
- sea turtle by-catch;
- striped marlin in the northern area;
- a provisional work programme for 2007-2011;
- a Memorandum of Understanding between ISC and WCPFC and IATTC and WCPFC;
- Rules of Procedure, and
- IUU fishing in the northern area.

19. The NC2 Summary Report, including advice and recommendations and proposed work programme of the Northern Committee, will be considered during WCPFC3.

Secretariat administrative and establishment matters

20. During the year the Secretariat:

- Recruited to its second tier positions, namely those of Science Manager, Compliance Manager and Finance and Administration Officer, as well as to the support positions of Office Manager and Secretary;

- Let and managed contracted activities in respect of: the design of a corporate data management model, provision of scientific services (MOU with SPC), legal services, a vessel record database, a VMS model study, a design study for the ROP, and an allocation issues study;
- Developed its banking arrangements within the Federated States of Micronesia, maintained its account in Solomon Islands and sought to establish the wider regional arrangements seen as useful in the conduct of the Commission's business;
- Arranged a range of insurance cover, in particular for Commission physical assets, public liability, employer's liability, and worker's compensation, motor vehicles, personal accident, life, health and medical;
- Encouraged and sought to assist, where appropriate, the governments of Federated States of Micronesia and the Pohnpei State in regard to enabling occupancy of the designated headquarters building. (Certain outstanding works require completion, due diligence on the building and associated land is required, and for legitimate occupancy a suitable lease is required);
- Identified and facilitated long term accommodation arrangements for expatriate professional staff recruited during the year and investigated options for a housing future expatriate recruits;
- Completed and distributed the 2005 annual accounts as required, together with the unqualified external audit report and observations;
- Established business relationships with several travel agents and Continental Airlines in order to obtain value for money travel and fare services;
- Elaborated on guidelines and operational procedures for the Special Requirements Fund;
- drafted guidelines for the commissioning of consultancy services;
- Established detailed financial rules and procedures for the Commission to consider in accordance with Finance Regulation 10.1 (a); and
- Monitored the CROP agencies' triennial review of salaries and conditions.

21. While recruitment to the positions of Science Manager, Compliance Manager, and Finance and Administration Officer, was possible by the end of March and the Office Manager and Secretary commenced duties in the second quarter, efforts to recruit to the post of Observer Programme Coordinator were unsuccessful. A small number of applications were received and the two preferred candidates declined employment offers, stating the Commission's employment conditions were insufficiently competitive. The post was re-graded by an inter-sessional decision and re-advertised in October.

22. Following an invitation for expressions of interest for the provision of international legal advisory services to the Secretariat that was announced to all Commission members and on the Commission's website, a period contract was awarded to Professor Martin Tsamenyi of the University of Wollongong. In addition the Secretariat has engaged a Pohnpei based legal counsel to advise on matters of FSM law, including tenancy and lease agreements.

23. Similarly announced expressions of interest resulted in the awarding of the following consultancy contracts:

- the allocation study approved at WCPFC2 to the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG) from the United Kingdom. The report of the study will be considered during WCPFC3 at Apia in December;

- a project to assess the information and data management needs of the Commission and to develop a model that will support the evolution of the Commission's information management capacity in the medium term was awarded to Avon Solutions Ltd, a company domiciled in Vanuatu. The outcomes from this project will be used to guide the Secretariat's IT strategy and proposed procurement program; and
- the preparation of a draft Programme Document for the Regional Observer Programme and a technical and feasibility appraisal of options for the Commission's VMS (both MRAG);

24. During the year the Secretariat prepared a draft Strategic Plan which will be presented to WCPFC3. The Plan has been drafted in an effort to identify the principle activities and tasks of the Commission for 2007 to 2011, provide transparency in relation to the work of the Commission and provide a basis against which to monitor and periodically report on the effectiveness and performance of the Commission. Although it draws on the provisions of international arrangements, such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the FAO Compliance Agreement, the WCPF Convention is the primary source document for the draft Strategic Plan. Should the Plan be approved, together with the specific decisions of the Commission, it will serve as a basis for the preparation of the Commission's annual programme of work for the period 2007 to 2011.

25. The SPC-OFP continued in the role of data manager, scientific services provider and webmaster for a second year. A Pohnpei-based firm developed a prototype for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels that was launched at TCC2 in late September. A short-term objective for the database is to lodge it on the Commission's website so CCMs can access it for the management of their own information included in the Record.

Annual Accounts and Contributions

26. The 2005 annual accounts were completed and provided to the independent external auditor within the time prescribed by the Commission's Finance Regulations. Similarly the required audit was completed on time and the unqualified audit report and related observations distributed to Members. The 2005 outcome for the General Fund showed a balance of USD263,630. This was transferred to the Working Capital Fund in accordance with the Commission's Financial Regulation 4.4. although, as a result of slow receipt of 2006 assessed contributions, it was immediately needed to finance 2006 operations.

27. Working Capital Fund monies were required to finance operations until the third quarter of 2006. As at 17 October 2006, five CCMs had outstanding contributions for 2006. These totalled USD93,952. There are also five CCMs with outstanding contributions for 2005. These totalled \$48,838. Four CCMs have outstanding contributions for both 2005 and 2006. In this regard it may be noted that Article 18 (3) of the Convention provides that if a contributor is in arrears for the preceding two full years it shall not participate in the taking of decisions by the Commission, subject to the Commission permitting such a member to vote.

Working Capital Fund

28. The Working Capital Fund as at 01 January 2006 was USD\$416,807. This amount comprised the transferred balance of the General Fund for 2005 (USD263,630) and the transferred March 2005 balance of the Preparatory Conference Organisational Fund

(153,177), as decided by the Commission. It is expected that the balance of the fund as at 31 December 2006 can be maintained at an appropriate level such that the 10% levy agreed for 2007 can be deferred.

29. As required by Financial Regulation 9 (Custody and Investment of Funds), the Commission has the following bank accounts:

Bank of Guam, Pohnpei Branch:

General Account Fund

Cheque Account 0109-039350; used for making operational payments;

Savings Account 0209-262429; used to receive operational deposits;

Savings Account 0209-262447; used to receive unspecified use voluntary contributions, if any; and

Savings Account 0209-262438; used to receive working capital amounts.

ANZ Bank, West End, Brisbane

Business account 4932-67263; account was established to support the Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee

Bank of Federated States of Micronesia

Savings account 604-4188150; Indonesia/Philippines Data Collection Project Fund

Savings account 604-4188158; Special Requirements Fund

National Bank of Solomon Islands, Honiara Branch

Cheque account 10025096001; established for the Preparatory Conference Operational Fund and is maintained with a small balance as it may prove operationally useful in future.

Residential Accommodation

30. The Secretariat continued to work with local interests to explore options for addressing the long term residential housing needs for the Commission in Pohnpei. As accommodation options for new recruits to the Secretariat are limited this is a high priority area for the Secretariat and one, unless addressed in the short term, has the potential to adversely affect future recruitment. Present indications are that while a housing complex would provide a secure long term solution as well as an attractive and valuable Commission asset, and several potential sites have been identified, the large initial investment costs behoves the Secretariat to continue to attempt to rent individual dwellings from landlords where possible while carefully monitoring the availability of the few executive standard houses in the vicinity of Kolonia. With several organisations (such as SPC) proposing to increase the staffing of their Kolonia offices, competition on the local housing market is likely to increase.

Office Accommodation

31. The Secretariat continues to operate from the interim accommodation made available by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. The suite has three large offices, a meeting room, some storage space, a combined reception and common area as well as a uni-sex rest room. These arrangements enable the Secretariat to function with its present staff complement but offer limited potential to house increased staff levels. This situation is likely to continue until certain outstanding works are completed on the designated headquarters

building that was constructed by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China, due diligence is done on the building and its services, the building at least partially furnished and the terms of a lease for the grounds on which the building stands finalised.

Relations with other organisations

32. Regular exchanges in respect of meetings, technical advice and developments in WCPO tuna fisheries strengthened during the year with FFA and SPC, particularly the SPC-OFP. The SPC-OFP, as the contracted scientific services provider to the Commission, provided timely and efficient support to the Secretariat throughout the year.

33. Regular dialogue was established and maintained with IATTC, the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and CCSBT. This was facilitated through the informal association of tuna RFMOs and efforts initiated by the secretariats to share information and exchange views on areas of common interest – such as vessel registries (www.tuna-org.org). Other organisations with whom productive relations were supported during the year included the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, the International MCS Network, the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), Birdlife International and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

34. These relations, and relations with other like-minded organisations, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organisation and others identified by the Commission, will be advanced during 2007 as opportunities permit. Further development of the relationship with IATTC requires dedicated work to progress opportunities for practical cooperation in areas of common interest.

Emerging issues

35. WCPFC3 will be the first time that the Commission has had an opportunity to reflect on a full twelve months of activities, notwithstanding that during that time the Secretariat was not fully staffed and operated from interim accommodation.

36. In terms of fisheries issues the key challenge before the Commission is the sustainability of bigeye and yellowfin resources at current levels of fishing mortality. A CCM acting alone cannot address this concern – it requires a Commission-wide response. Efforts to examine how WCPO tuna resources may be equitably allocated within sustainable limits, encouragement of industry efforts to improve fishing strategies to minimise juvenile yellowfin and bigeye catch taken in the purse seine fishery, the implementation of effort or catch limits on the high seas, including in respect of the longline fishery, and support for the application of conservation and management measures in the Philippines and Indonesia will all require consideration if this challenge is to be addressed.

37. The ability to monitor compliance with the Convention, and conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission is contingent on an operational and effective scheme for monitoring, control and surveillance. While the Commission is at present simultaneously progressing several complex components of its compliance framework, the Technical and Compliance Committee has recommended that priority during 2007 be assigned to further development and elaboration of the Commission's vessels

monitoring system, the regional observer programme, and the high seas boarding and inspection scheme.

38. Progress with establishing the Commission in 2007 will continue to be reliant on an efficient and responsive Secretariat. There is prima facie evidence that the Commission's conditions of service may not be sufficiently competitive to consistently attract suitable professional staff. The failure to attract healthy fields of applicants, several declinations of appointments, and a comparative analysis of the 2006 triennial review of CROP salaries and conditions of service all contribute to support that proposition. While base salaries for the Secretariat's staff may be harmonised with those of the CROP organisations, if the Commission adopts the increases endorsed by the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) in October 2006, the remainder of the Commission's conditions package appears to be inadequate in terms of attracting appropriate staff to the Secretariat in Pohnpei. The Secretariat is requesting this critical matter be investigated during 2007 through an independent review of the terms and conditions of service with the Commission.

39. In summary, the following activities will require attention from CCMs and the Secretariat during the coming year:

- implementation of the decisions of WCPFC3 in relation to Conservation and Management Measures;
- monitoring and reporting on efforts to reduce the mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tuna;
- further development of the Commission's Record of Fishing Vessels and Authorizations to Fish as a web-based tool supporting CCMs reporting obligations;
- monitoring and reporting on capacity in WCPO tuna fisheries, as required;
- provision of appropriate assistance to Indonesia to fully participate in the Convention;
- monitoring of tuna fishery developments in Vietnam;
- promotion of the decisions of the Commission with non-CCMs associated with processing and marketing of WCPO tuna;
- further development and implementation of the Information Security Policy and the Secretariat's information management capacity;
- support of efforts to bring the VMS and Regional Observer Programme to implementation;
- formalisation of relationships with other organisations as approved by the Commission;
- explore opportunities to strengthen collaboration and engagement with other t-RFMOs;
- strengthening of the capacity to monitor IUU fishing in the Convention Area including through the exchange of information with other RFMOs;
- support for efforts to improve data collection and research associated with tuna fisheries and the WCPO ecosystem including, as resources permit, initiatives to scale up tuna tagging programmes and promote an ecosystems-based approach to the management and conservation of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area;
- continued monitoring of progress with the establishment of a new international convention for straddling fish stocks in the southern Pacific Ocean;

- continued monitoring of developments in the global tuna industry particularly in relation to capacity in the WCPO; and
- establishing an effective and efficient office in Federated States of Micronesia.

40. Appended to this Report is the Secretariat's assessment of progress with implementation of the functions of the Commission as provided for at Article 10 of the Convention. Members are invited to review this matrix and consider how it might be further developed to monitor the effectiveness of the Commission in a transparent and accountable manner.

Consultations during 2006

41. During the year the Commission was represented at the following meetings arranged by other organisations or bodies:

- First international negotiating session to establish a new South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, 14-17 February, Wellington, New Zealand;
- The 61st Session of the Forum Fisheries Committee, 15-19 May, Nadi, Fiji
- FAO Methodological Workshop on the Management of Fishing Capacity, 8-12 May, La Jolla, USA.
- UN Fish Stocks Agreement Review Conference, 22-26 May, New York;
- 74th Annual Session of the IATTC, 26-30 June, Busan, Korea;
- 8th National Tuna Congress, 1-3 September, General Santos City, Philippines;
- South Pacific Albacore Workshop, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, 19-21 September, Honolulu, Hawaii;
- Management Options Workshop, 17-20 October, La Jolla, USA.
- Forum Officials' Committee, 3-4 October, Suva, Fiji;

Acknowledgements

42. The Secretariat, on behalf of the Commission, extends appreciation to the following governments and organisations for the support provided to the Commission during 2006:

- The Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly the office of the National Ocean Resources Management Administration for the provision and maintenance of the Secretariat's temporary office accommodation;
- The Government of Korea for the donation of a Commission vehicle and office equipment;
- The Government of Japan and the Government of Federated States of Micronesia for facilitating the donation of office equipment through Japan's Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) project;
- The Government of the United States of America for its voluntary contribution and additional contributions of USD55,000 to the Special Requirements Fund and USD99,000 to support the Regional Observer Program;
- The Government of France for a contribution of €40,000 (USD50,803) to support the Indonesia/Philippines Data Collection Project;
- The Government of Philippines for logistical support provided during SC2 at Manila, Philippines;
- The Government of Japan, particularly the Fisheries Agency of Japan, for financial, logistical and administrative support to the Northern Committee during its meeting at Tokyo,

- The SPC-OFP for on-going data management, scientific and technical support;
- Respectively to the Governments of Korea, Fiji and Japan for releasing staff to chair the subsidiary bodies of the Commission – Dr Dae-Yeon Moon from Korea in respect of the Scientific Committee, Mr Apolosi Turaganivalu from Fiji in respect of the Technical and Compliance Committee and Mr Masanori Miyahara from Japan in relation to the Northern Committee;
- The Government of Australia for the financial and logistical support provided to TCC2 at Brisbane, Australia; and
- The Government of Samoa for the logistical, administrative support and hospitality during WCPFC3 in Apia.

An assessment of progress operationalizing the Functions of the Commission during 2006 by the Secretariat (refer to Article 10 of the Convention for the full text)

Reference	Function	Secretariat's assessment of progress to date	
		Pre-2006:	2006
10(1)	Without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States....		
10(1)(a)	determine total allowable catch and total level of fishing effort.....and adopt other conservation and management measures.....to ensure long term sustainability.	<p>Resolutions that sought to address this matter during the MHLC and the Preparatory Conference are those adopted at the fourth and fifth sessions of the MHLC and third and fifth sessions of the Preparatory Conference (WCPFC/PrepCon/22 and WCPFC/PrepCon/34), calling for measures including reasonable restraint in the expansion of fishing effort and capacity in the Convention Area. These measures continue to apply.</p> <p>The resolution adopted at WCPFC1, Resolution on Conservation and Measurement Measures, sought specific advice on sustainable catch and effort levels for bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore. Responding to this request, SC1 in August 2005, recommended a reduction in the level of fishing mortality by at least 20% of average 2001-2003 levels to reduce fishing mortality to F_{MSY} levels.</p> <p>The Conservation and Management Measure-2005-01 and CMM-2005-03 adopted at WCPFC2 determined total level of purse seine effort in the Convention Area bounded by 20⁰N and 20⁰S, total level of CCMs' longline catch for bigeye tuna, the total level of fishing effort for north Pacific albacore north of 20⁰N and total number of active fishing vessels for South Pacific albacore in the Convention Area south of 20⁰S.</p>	<p>SC2 at Manila, Philippines recommended a reduction of 25% in the fishing mortality for bigeye tuna and 10% for yellowfin tuna from 2001-2004 levels across the Convention Area. If maintenance of equilibrium average biomass at levels above B_{MSY} is to be a management objective additional reductions will be required. For South Pacific albacore and striped marlin, no increases in fishing mortality on these stocks were recommended as a precautionary measure.</p>
10(1)(b)	promote cooperation and coordination.....and compatibility.	<p>Paragraph 9 of the CMM-2005-01 requests Commission to implement compatible measures to ensure that purse seine effort levels do not exceed 2004 levels on the high seas in the Convention Area or the total fishing capacity will not increase in the Convention Area.</p>	<p>Progress with implementation of paragraph 9 may be reviewed during WCPFC3.</p>
10(1)(c)	adopt, where necessary, conservation and	<p>The Resolution adopted at WCPFC1 requested the SC estimates of the mortality of non-target species with an initial focus on seabirds, turtles and</p>	<p>A proposal concerning sharks was tabled at the 2005 Session of the Commission - a decision on</p>

	management measures and make recommendations for non-target species and species dependent on or associated with target stocks.....	sharks. SC1 could not provide reliable estimates because of lower coverage of observer data. WCPFC2 adopted three Resolutions relating to non-target, associated and dependent species – Resolution 2005-01 (Seabirds); Resolution 2005-03 (Non-target fish species) and Resolution 2005-04 (Sea turtles).	it was deferred until the 2006 Session. Some CCMs reported on implementation of these Resolutions in their Part 2 components of their Annual Report presented to the TCC2 in September 2006.
10(1)(d)	adopt standards for collection, verification and for the timely exchange and reporting of datain accordance with Annex I....	WCPFC2 adopted the recommendation of SC1 in August 2005 relating to Scientific Data to be Provided to the Commission and Standards for the Provision of Operational Level Catch and Effort Data to the Commission. At TCC1, the Committee agreed a two-part reporting format, part 1 with information on fisheries, research and statistics and part 2 with information on management and compliance – members submitted data on fisheries according to this agreement. Standards on verification and timely exchange of fisheries data is yet to be developed.	All CCMs submitted Part 1 Reports to SC2 in August 2006. In addition, CCMs whose vessels operate in the northern area submitted additional reports for North Pacific albacore, as required under Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03.
10(1)(e)	compile and disseminate accurate and complete statistical datawhile maintaining confidentiality.....	Since 2004, SPC takes the role of Commission’s data manager in collecting and compiling fishery related data, subject to the terms and conditions in the MOU between the Commission and the SPC. While there have been recent improvements in the quality of available information from the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam (which is not a CCM), and coverage for operational level catch and effort data has trended up since the late 1970’s to the point where 51% coverage was achieved in 2004, coverage for other sources of data are low. 2003 estimates for port sampling data was 5.1% coverage, for observer data it was 4.8% with slightly higher coverage in 2004 (5.1%).	WCPFC2 appointed an Ad Hoc Task Group [Data] to examine the types of data that will be managed by the Commission, data that will need to be treated as confidential and the rules and procedures for access to and dissemination of that data. In addition to preparing a report to be presented to WCPFC3 the AHTG recommended the continued development of an Information Security Policy for the Commission’s Secretariat.
10(1)(f)	obtain and evaluate scientific advice, review the status of stocks, promote and conduct relevant scientific research and disseminate results....	The information available to scientists at SC1 in August 2005, the outcomes of that meeting and the operationalization of a memorandum with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for the provision of scientific services demonstrates implementation of this function is progressing well.	SC2 in August 2006 received new assessments for yellowfin, bigeye and southwest swordfish and updates for the status of skipjack and South Pacific albacore. The Scientific Committee developed a 5-year Strategic Research Plan, a scientific committee work programme and budget (for 2007 and 2008) and terms of reference and a provisional schedule for a proposed independent review of interim arrangements for science structure and functions

			which will be considered by WCPFC3. The arrangement with SPC for the provision of scientific services was executed efficiently.
10(1)(g)	develop.....criteria for the allocation of total allowable catch or the total level of fishing effort....	This has not been attempted.	The WCPFC2 adopted Terms of Reference for work during 2007 to examine allocation issues (paragraph 39, WCPFC2 Summary Report) and will be considered at WCPFC3.
10(1)(h)	adopt....minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations.	Although guidance is available through Annex I of the Agreement and Annex III of the Convention, the Commission is yet to formally adopt standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations.	TCC2 commenced work on a process to report and monitor on compliance with the Convention and the decisions of the Commission by both fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area, CCMs and non-CCMs. It also commenced work on a process to monitor and respond to IUU fishing in the Convention Area.
10(1)(i)	establish.....effective monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement, including a vessel monitoring system.	These matters were considered at TCC1 which meets 5-9 December at Pohnpei. The recommendations of that Committee Session, which were subsequently adopted by the Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005, included the development of a programme document to guide the development and implementation of the Regional Observer Programme and the commissioning of a technical and feasibility study for VMS options for the Commission.	TCC2 considered a report commissioned by the Secretariat detailing the principle elements of a Regional Observer Programme. TCC2 also recommended that WCPFC3 approve a full system design for the Commission VMS and that the Commission take formal decisions for the establishment of both these key elements of the Commission's regulatory framework.
10(1)(j)	obtain and evaluate economic and other fisheries-related data....	The Commission currently does not have the capacity to service this function.	
10(1)(k)	agree on means by which the fishing interests of any new membermay be evaluated.	Refer to procedures recommended by WG III and adopted by the Commission (Annex II of WCPFC/PrepCon/46).	The report assessing options for allocation commissioned by the Secretariat during 2006, and to be considered at WCPFC3, will start the process to consider this function.
10(1)(l)	adopt ...rules of procedure and financial regulations and other internal administrative regulations....	Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations were adopted at the Inaugural Session of the Commission in December 2005. Other internal administrative arrangements, such as Staff Regulations, were adopted at WCPFC2.	No new administrative procedures were developed during 2006.
10(1)(m)	consider and approve the proposed budget.....	A standing agenda item for each annual session of the Commission.	
10(1)(n)	promote the peaceful settlement of disputes....	The provisions of Article 20 (Decision-making) and Annex II (Review Panel) provide the foundation for the peaceful settlement of disputes.	
10(1)(o)discuss.....and adopt	Through the MHLC and Preparatory Conference, several Resolutions were	

	any measures or recommendations necessary to achieve the objective of the Commission.	adopted of which some were carried over to the Commission. Since WCPFC 1, binding conservation and management measures and non-binding resolutions have been adopted. This is a standing agenda item for each annual session of the Commission.	
10(2)	...may adopt measures relating to, <i>inter alia</i> :		
10(2)(a)	..the quantity of any species or stocks..	The Second Regular Session of the Commission adopted Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01 which established a catch limit for bigeye tuna for the following three years.	
10(2)(b)	...level of fishing effort;	WCPFC 2' s decisions also established effort levels for purse seine fishing (Conservation and Management Measure 2005-01), South Pacific albacore (Conservation and Management Measure 2005-02) and North Pacific albacore (Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03).	
10(2)(c)	limitations of fishing capacity, including measures relating to fishing vessel numbers, types and sizes;	MHLC IV and PrepCon3 adopted Resolutions that urged participants to exercise restraint in respect of any expansion of fishing effort and capacity. WCPFC2 adopted Resolution 2005-02 which requires capacity created during the period 1999-2005 be reduced through the removal or equivalent fishing capacity.	
10(2)(d)	..areas and periods in which fishing may occur;	No decisions have been taken in relation to this measure.	
10(2)(e)	the size of fish of any species....	No decisions have been taken in relation to this measure.	
10(2)(f)	the fishing gear and technology.....	No decisions have been taken in relation to this measure.	
10(2)(g)	Particular sub-regions or regions.	The Commission has not adopted any measures relating to particular regions or sub-regions.	
10(4)	The Commission may adopt decisions relating to the allocation of the total allowable catch or the total level of fishing effort.....by consensus.	The Commission has not taken any decisions in relation to this measure.	
10(5)	...take into account the reports and any recommendations of the Scientific Committee, and the Technical and Compliance Committee.....	The reports and recommendations of the Scientific Committee and the Technical and Compliance Committee will be considered by WCPFC2.	The reports and recommendations of SC2, TCC2 and NC2 will be considered by WCPFC3.

10(6)promptly notifyand give due publicity to the conservation and management measures.....	All Preparatory Conference meeting material, including Resolutions, the Summary Reports of all the Commission's sessions, including those of its subsidiary bodies, have been made publicly available on the Commission's website.	The meeting documents and the Summary Reports of all the Commission's sessions, including those of its subsidiary bodies, have been posted on the Commission's website.
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