



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

WCPFC3-2006/25

10 November 2006

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, particularly those with related objectives and which can contribute to the attainment of the Convention's objectives. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCALMR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are identified as organizations, among others, with which the Commission may enter into arrangements for the purposes of collaboration, cooperation, consultation and avoiding duplication.

2. A summary of the status of relations with these and other organizations was presented to the Second Regular Session of the Commission (WCPFC2), 12-16 December 2005. Updates were provided to sessions of the Commission's subsidiary bodies during 2006.

3. This paper is intended to further update Members, Cooperating Non-members and Participating Territories (CCMs) on relations with other organisations during 2006 and to seek guidance in relation to further development of relations with other organisations during 2007.

Current status

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization

4. FAO is a global organisation which, under the auspices of its Fisheries Department, maintains collaborative relations with a large number of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) – particularly those concerned with tuna. Excellent relations were maintained with FAO during 2006. Consultation and collaboration has involved data issues, particularly in relation to the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS)/Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) and the Coordinated Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP), science, fishing capacity and port State matters.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

5. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concluded at WCPFC2 operated efficiently and effectively during the year. SPC provided responsive and complete data management and scientific services particularly in relation to the preparation of documentation for the Scientific Committee and the provision of catch data required for the calculation of 2007 contributions throughout the year.

6. Available financial support for the MoU will be exhausted at 31 December 2006. A revised Schedule, describing the actual work envisaged under the MoU in 2007, and the funds required to support that programme of work, as proposed by the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee is appended at **Attachment A**.

The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

7. Since WCPFC2 the FFA Secretariat and the Commission Secretariat have prepared a draft MoU (**Attachment B**). WCPFC3 is invited to provide comments and refinements, as appropriate, with a view to concluding a formal arrangement with the FFA.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

8. Although regular exchanges on technical matters occur between the Commission Secretariat and the CCAMLR Secretariat during 2006 no progress has been made on developing a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration between the two secretariats.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

9. A copy of a draft MoU, incorporating comments from the 74th Annual Meeting of the IATTC, 26-30 June 2006 at Busan, Korea, is appended at **Attachment C**. The Commission is invited to review the draft with a view to concluding a formal arrangement with IATTC.

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

10. Following consideration at WCPFC2 the respective Chairs of both organizations signed a MoU formalizing a relationship between the two organisations (**Attachment D**).

International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)

11. In adopting the report of the First Regular Session of the Northern Committee, 12 December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, the Commission urged that a MoU between ISC and the Commission be concluded for adoption by the Commission in 2006.

12. The interim Secretariat for the ISC and the Secretariat developed a draft MoU which was considered at the 6th Meeting of ISC at La Jolla, USA in March 2006 (**Attachment E**). The Second Regular Sessions of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August, Manila, Philippines and the Northern Committee, 11-13 September, Tokyo, Japan reviewed the draft forwarded by ISC.

13. The MoU, as amended by the Scientific Committee and Northern Committee, is presented to WCPFC3 for review and, if necessary, refinement with a view to formalizing the relationship between ISC and the Commission.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

14. Regular dialogue is maintained with the ICCAT directly and through the tuna-RFMO network. There are no developments to report during 2006 in respect of the development of a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with ICCAT.

International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (International MCS Network)

15. WCPFC2, in adopting the Summary Report of the First Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee, 5-9 December 2005 at Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia, endorsed the proposal to establish mutually beneficial relations with the International MCS Network. No attempt to formalize a collaborative arrangement with the International MCS Network was commenced during 2006 but the Network was invited to observe the Second Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee at Brisbane, Australia. The Network was unable to participate in that meeting.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

16. The First Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission Secretariat seek to establish mutually beneficial relations with the NPAFC. There have been no developments since WCPFC2 to report in relation to this proposal.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

17. PICES, an intergovernmental scientific organization, was established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America. PICES invited WCPFC to participate in its annual meeting 2006. The Secretariat responded that funding and staffing constraints prevented participation in 2006 but that it looked forward to close cooperation in future years.

Additional initiatives during 2006

Tuna-RFMO

18. The Secretariat participated in the 6th meeting of tuna-RFMOs in May (Summary Record appended at **Attachment F**). This informal network of tuna networks and programs meets opportunistically to exchange general information on current developments within tuna RFMOs, share views for addressing issues of common interest and to discuss cost-effective means to promote collaboration and cooperation. Courtesy of ICCAT, a website is now maintained for the group (www.tuna-org.org). Although still under development, this serves as a resource for sharing vessel list information, meeting schedules and employment opportunities.

South Pacific RFMO

19. The Secretariat participated in the first international negotiating session to establish a new regional fisheries management organisation for the high seas in the South Pacific Ocean in February 2006 at Wellington, New Zealand. A second negotiating session took place at Hobart, Australia in November. The Secretariat is maintaining a monitoring brief as negotiations to establish this new organisation progress.

Proposed new initiatives

20. The Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission seek to establish formal relations with:

- The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
- The Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP);
- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and
- The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

21. WCPFC3 is invited to provide advice and recommendations concerning relations with the organizations referred to above and other organizations with which mutually beneficial relationships should be explored.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

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

AND

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission” or “the Commission”) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (hereinafter referred to as “the SPC”):

Recognising that the Commission is required to, *inter alia*:

- adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in its Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilisation;
- ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- adopt measures to minimise waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, pollution originating from fishing vessels, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species (hereinafter referred to as non-target species) and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species and promote the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques;
- protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- take measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources;

- collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- establish a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest;
- establish a committee (the Technical and Compliance Committee), that is required to collaborate with the Scientific Committee in providing advice and making recommendations to the Commission on conservation and management measures; and
- establish a committee (the Northern Committee) to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20° parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;

Noting also that the Commission:

- may engage the services of scientific experts to provide information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources;
- may enter into administrative and financial arrangements to utilise scientific services for this purpose; and
- in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilise the services of existing regional organisations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organisation with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission;

Recognising that the SPC, through the work of its Oceanic Fisheries Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the OFP”), seeks to:

- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities in its region of competence have access to high-quality scientific information and advice on the status of, and fishery impacts on, stocks targeted or otherwise impacted by regional oceanic fisheries;
- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities within its region of competence have access to accurate and comprehensive scientific data on fisheries targeting the region’s resources of tuna, billfish and other oceanic species including non-target species; and
- improve the understanding of pelagic ecosystems in the western and central Pacific Ocean, with a focus on the western tropical Pacific;

Noting also that the OFP, in pursuing these objectives, has, over a long period of time:

- developed and maintained a comprehensive database of catch, effort, size composition and other biological data from the oceanic fisheries of the western and central Pacific Ocean;

- conducted biological and ecological research on the target and non-target species impacted by the fisheries and their ecosystem;
- conducted regular stock assessments and associated analyses for highly migratory stocks of interest;
- provided a forum for the exchange of knowledge of oceanic fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean through the precursor to the Scientific Committee, the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, and thus has an established international and regional network of scientific collaborators; and
- assisted SPC member countries that are also Members of the Commission in the management of oceanic fisheries through the implementation of fishery monitoring and data management systems, the provision of scientific advice and the provision of national capacity building;

Have agreed as follows:

Section 1.01 General Co-operation

The Commission and the SPC agree to establish and maintain co-operation in respect of matters of common interest to the two organisations. In particular, the Commission and the SPC will:

- i. encourage reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organisation;
- ii. encourage the collaboration of national scientists in the scientific work undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Commission;
- iii. actively and regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, up to the limits allowed by the information-sharing policies agreed by each organisation's members; and
- iv. consult on a regular basis to enhance co-operation and minimise duplication.

Section 1.02 Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission by the SPC OFP

The SPC OFP will provide scientific services, in cooperation with other scientists, as appropriate, including those from Members of the Commission, as agreed and detailed in annual¹ Service Agreements, which shall be considered Annexes to this MOU. Services may include, *inter alia*, the following:

- i. data management services, including, as appropriate, the collection, compilation and dissemination of fisheries data according to agreed principles and procedures established by the Commission, data processing, and database development and maintenance, taking full account of the procedures and policies of both organisations relating to the confidentiality, disclosure and publication of data;

¹ The first such Service Agreement shall cover an 18 month period, from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2006. Service Agreements shall be annual thereafter.

- ii. data summaries and analyses that the Commission may routinely require to carry out its functions;
- iii. other data summaries and analyses that the Commission may require from time to time;
- iv. regional stock assessments of key target and non-target species;
- v. scientific evaluation of potential management options;
- vi. scientific advice in relation to the implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system, regional observer programme or other initiatives relating to fishing gear and technology, as appropriate; and
- vii. design and implementation of biological, ecological or stock assessment research programmes requested by the Commission, including collaborative research programmes with other regional fishery management organisations.

Section 1.03 Provision of Assistance to Commission Members

In support of Article 30 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the SPC will provide assistance to its Pacific Island Members to enhance their participation in the work of the Commission. Assistance may include, *inter alia*:

- i. assistance in monitoring the fishing activities of national fleets and foreign fleets fishing within Pacific Island exclusive economic zones;
- ii. assistance in data management, and in particular in satisfying the data reporting obligations to the Commission;
- iii. auditing of national fishery monitoring and data management systems;
- iv. assistance in the interpretation of scientific information being provided to the Commission;
- v. scientific advice for the management of national fisheries consistent with the objectives of the Commission; and
- vi. assistance in the implementation of management measures adopted by the Commission.

Section 1.04 Financial Support

The Commission will provide financial support for the provision of scientific services and for the provision of assistance to Commission members as agreed in the Service Agreements.

In respect of scientific services, it is recognised that the SPC OFP, through its regular work programme, already undertakes a considerable portion of the scientific work required by the Commission. Initially, it is expected that the Commission will fund only the work required for the provision of scientific services that is additional to the SPC OFP's regular work programme. However, as the Commission's financial base becomes established, the Commission will assume, over a time-frame and according to a formula

to be mutually agreed, a greater responsibility for the full range of scientific services provided by the SPC OFP in support of the work of the Commission.

In respect of assistance to Pacific Island Commission Members, such assistance will normally be provided by SPC funding sources, or from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, subject to procedures agreed by the Commission governing the use of that Fund and to the Commission's strategy for capacity building and operationalizing Article 30 of the Convention. Where assistance is to be funded from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, this shall be included in the Service Agreement. In special circumstances, assistance may also be requested for non-Pacific Island Commission Members. Such assistance will be funded by the Commission (in which case it will be detailed in the Service Agreement) or directly by the countries concerned.

Section 1.05 General Administrative Arrangements

- i. This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives of both Parties.
- ii. This MOU may be modified by written consent of the responsible representatives of both Parties. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of such consent.
- iii. If any dispute should arise between the Parties on the operation of this MOU, the Parties will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilising a mutually-acceptable arbiter.
- iv. Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from the MOU. Termination shall be effective on 31 December of the year in which such notice is given, or 90 days following such notice, whichever is later. Upon termination of the MOU, any uncommitted funds provided for scientific services and assistance shall be refunded to the Commission.
- v. A full review of the terms and operation of this MOU and its Annexes will be conducted in concert with the review of the scientific functions of the Commission, to be completed by 30 June 2007, and subsequently every three years.

Section 1.06 Signature

Signed on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community:

Andrew Wright
Executive Director, WCPFC

Lourdes Pangelinan
Director General, SPC

20 December 2005

ANNEX I Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Period Covered by this Agreement

The period covered by this Agreement is 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.

Scientific Services to be Provided

The scientific services to be provided to the Commission by the SPC OFP during the period of this Agreement are as follows:

Description of Service	Specific Outputs	Timing
<i>Data management, statistical analyses and related services</i>		
Incorporate data provided by Commission Members under the Commission's data provision policy (e.g., annual catch estimates, operational-level logsheet data, size data, etc.) into existing databases and facilitate access of Commission secretariat staff to those data as appropriate.	Databases updated with all data provided by commission members Written report to the Secretariat on data submissions Catch and Effort Query System (CES) software installed at WCPFC headquarters and staff trained in its use	Jan 2007 – Dec 2007 Jul 2007 2007, by mutual agreement
Compile estimates of annual catches by species and gear type.	SC 3 Working Paper	Jul 2007
Produce and publish on the Commission's website two issues of the Regional Tuna Bulletin, containing estimates of monthly catch rates for certain fleets, based on the most recent data available.	Posting on WCPFC website	Jan and Jul 2007
Produce and publish on the Commission's website the Tuna Fishery Yearbook 2006, containing annual catch estimates by gear type, flag and species.	Posting on WCPFC website	Dec 2007
Provide estimates of annual catches for 2004–2006 broken down by vessel flag, EEZ, and archipelagic waters (for use in determining the catch component of the Commission's assessed contributions).	Written report to the Secretariat	Oct 2007
Disseminate public domain catch, effort and size data on the Commission's website at	Posting on WCPFC website	Jul 2007

agreed level of resolution.		
Participate in the Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project and the compilation of information on the tuna fisheries of Vietnam.	IPDCP project management and technical support provided and documented in reports of relevant duty travel, meetings of the Steering Committee and IPDCP workshops. Advice provided to the Secretariat on request. All reports to be provided to the Secretariat	Jan – Dec 2007
Develop objectives and priorities for data to be collected by observers for fisheries other than purse-seine and longline	SC 3 Working Paper	Jul 2007
Develop data standards for port sampling and observer programmes.	SC 3 Working Paper	Jul 2007
Advise the Executive Director regarding the development of (a) Rules and Procedures for the Access to and Dissemination of Data and (b) the Information Security Policy	Advice provided to the Executive Director on request	Jan - Dec
<i>Stock assessment and related analytical services</i>		
Undertake two full stock assessments, as requested by the Commission	SC 3 Working Papers Report to the Secretariat	Jul 2007
Undertake other full stock assessments for those target and non-target species as requested by the Commission.	SC 3 working papers	Jul 2007
Undertake evaluation of conservation and management measures as requested by the Commission and specified in detail by the Secretariat	SC 3 working paper Report to the Secretariat	Jul 2007
Undertake analyses of longline catch and effort data, including where appropriate operational-level data, to improve the standardisation of effort and the construction of indices of stock abundance for bigeye, yellowfin and South Pacific albacore tuna.	SC 3 Working Papers	Jul 2007
Further development of the stock assessment model, MULTIFAN-CL, including simulation testing of new developments as appropriate. Evaluate alternative assessment approaches..	Updated stock assessment modeling software and documentation posted on the MULTIFAN-CL website (also linked from WCPFC) SC 3 Working Papers on the evaluation of alternative	Jul 2007

	assessment approaches	
Further refinement of data and data structure used for stock assessment	SC 3 Working or Information Papers, as appropriate	Jul 2007
Undertake a preliminary analysis of the vertical distribution of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna associated with fish aggregation devices, as indicated by acoustic tagging data	SC 3 Working Paper	Jul 2007
Research services		
Develop a proposal for a Regional Tuna Tagging Project for review by SC 3	SC 3 Working Paper Support to the WCPFC Regional Tuna Tagging Steering Committee	Jul 2007
Other advisory services		
Provide advice, as requested, on scientific aspects of the design and implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system and regional observer programme.		Jan – Dec 2007
Provide advice to the Secretariat during the planning and implementation of the independent review of the Commission's scientific services scheduled for completion in the second quarter of 2007.		Jan – Dec 2006

Financial Support to be Provided by the Commission

The financial support to be provided by the Commission to the SPC OFP for the services outlined in section 2 above is as follows:

Item	Cost basis	USD
Data management and stock assessment services	2 full-time equivalent scientific posts for 12 months	
Total Commission funding		

Schedule for Payments

The schedule of payments shall be as follows:

31 December 2006 (or before)	USD
31 March 2007 (or before)	USD
30 June 2007 (or before)	USD
30 September 2007 (or before)	USD

Bank Details for Payments

Name of Bank: Banque de Nouvelle-Caledonie
Address: 25 av Henri Lafleur Victoire, Noumea, New Caledonia
Account name : Secretariat General de la Communaute du Pacifique
Account Number : 14889 00081 01461716025 31

Andrew Wright
Executive Director, WCPFC

Dr. Jimmie Rodgers
Director General, SPC

[date]

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF
THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM FISHERIES AGENCY
AND**

THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Secretariats of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Recognising the complementary relationship between FFA and the WCPFC in respect of their responsibilities and activities in supporting the development, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

Recalling that the function of the FFA as provided for in Article VII of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention is, *inter alia*, to seek to establish working arrangements with relevant regional and international organisations;

Further recalling the FFA mission as defined by its Strategic Plan 2005-2020 is to support and enable its members to achieve sustainable fisheries and the highest levels of social and economic benefits in harmony with the broader environment;

Acknowledging that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Further noting Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which requires the WCPFC to cooperate with other organizations including the FFA;

Desiring to put in place an arrangement to support the implementation of Article VII(e) of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

The FFA and the WCPFC Secretariats record the following understandings concerning consultation, collaboration, co-operation and efforts to minimise duplication:

1. The FFA is the lead agency with responsibility for advising and supporting its members on the development and implementation of policies for the conservation and management of stocks of highly migratory species within the areas under the national jurisdiction of its members;
2. The WCPFC is the lead agency for coordinating conservation and management arrangements between FFA members and non-FFA members and for the development and implementation of policies relating to the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas within the WCPFC Convention area;

3. In order to maximise the effectiveness of their scientific, compliance and policy activities, FFA and WCPFC agree to exchange information relating to their activities and programmes of work on highly migratory fish stocks, associated and dependent species in the Pacific Islands region, subject to arrangements concerning the confidentiality of information held by each organisation on behalf of its members, at no cost to either party unless specifically agreed

4. In an effort to harmonise activities, avoid duplication and make efficient use of available resources, FFA and WCPFC agree that the following activity areas of mutual interest, will be the focus of consultation, coordination and collaboration:

- vessel monitoring systems;
- vessel registries;
- observer programmes;
- port State Schemes;
- procedures for verifying transshipment;
- compliance and compliance reporting;
- data, and data reporting and formats;
- procedures for boarding and inspection of vessels on the high seas;
- catch, fishing capacity and fishing technology;
- capacity building, especially in relation to the SIDS Special Requirements Fund;
- economic issues associated with regional tuna fisheries;
- meeting arrangements; and
- activities with other organisations.

5. WCPFC and FFA agree to meet at least once-annually at a venue and time that minimises the cost of participation, for the purpose of consulting on activities of mutual interest, exchanging information and exploring opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

6. Where necessary and by mutual agreement any meeting can review this MOU and agree upon amendments to take effect upon signature by the Director-General of the FFA and Chair of the WCPFC.

This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

Either party may terminate this MOU by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.

Signed and duly dated:

Feleti P. Teo
Director-General
Forum Fisheries Agency

Glenn Hurry
Chair
Commission for the Conservation of Highly
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and
Central Pacific Ocean Ok

Date: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

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

and

THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC):

RECOGNISING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that the objective of the Antigua Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention;

UNDERSTANDING that both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention have provisions to address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong the same ecosystem as the target species;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IATTC;

NOTING that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention also provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

AWARE that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention further calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IATTC and to initiate consultation with the IATTC with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of the Antigua Convention;

NOTING that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention also provides that, where the Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the IATTC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to ensure that the objective of the Antigua Convention is reached;

AWARE that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention further provides that the IATTC shall strive to agree with another organization with an overlapping area on the relevant measures to be taken, such as ensuring the harmonization and compatibility of the conservation and management measures adopted by

the IATTC and the other organization, or deciding that the IATTC or the other organization, as appropriate, avoid taking measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by the other organization;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that there is a geographical area that falls within the purview of both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention;

AWARE that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention that migrate through areas that are within the purview of both Conventions;

DESIROUS to put into place arrangements and procedures to make possible the cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention, and to enhance the conservation and management of species which are covered by the two Conventions;

NOW THEREFORE the **WCPFC** and the **IATTC** record the following understandings:

1. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information, in a manner consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments;
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

2. MANNER OF COOPERATION

Section 1.01 Cooperation between the Secretariats of the WCPFC and the IATTC shall include:

- i. reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information-sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

Section 1.02 Consultative Meeting

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish a consultative meeting between the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. The purpose of the Consultative Meeting will be to review and enhance the cooperation between the WCPFC and the IATTC. The Consultative Meetings shall be open to all interested members of both Commissions and be supported by appropriate staff of both Commissions.

3. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by mutual consent of both Commissions.

4. TERMINATION

Either Commission may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

5. SIGNATURE

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 Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

.....

Chairman, WCPFC

Date:

.....

Director, IATTC

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA**

AND

THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Recalling that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna;

Further recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Recognising that under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna CCSBT claims competence over southern bluefin throughout its migratory range;

Recognising further that under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean WCPFC has competence to regulate southern bluefin tuna within its area of jurisdiction as a highly migratory stock;

Noting Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna which requires the CCSBT to collaborate with other inter-governmental organisations which have related objectives to, among other things, obtain the best available information including scientific information to further the attainment of the objective of the Convention and seek to avoid duplication with respect to the work of the other organizations;

Further noting Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which requires the WCPFC to cooperate with other organizations, including specifically, CCSBT, in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

Recalling paragraph 86 (a) of the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission for the Conservation of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean of 7 December 2004, which recognises the need to establish an understanding between WCPFC and the CCSBT clarifying that, because CCSBT has competence with respect to southern bluefin tuna throughout its migratory range, the WCPFC recognizes that CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

Desiring to put in place an arrangement to implement Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

The CCSBT and the WCPFC record the following understandings:

(a) that the CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

(b) that the CCSBT will provide a report each year to the WCPFC covering the stock assessment for southern bluefin tuna for that year; and the latest catch data classified by ocean, gear and catching country;

c) that the WCPFC will provide a report to the CCSBT each year detailing the catches of southern bluefin tuna by vessels fishing for highly migratory species within the WCPFC Convention area by flag and gear;

(d) that the CCSBT and the WCPFC agree to:

- exchange data and scientific information on annual basis;
- exchange information on fisheries management on annual basis;
- cooperate in investigations and studies of mutual interest;
- grant permanent reciprocal observer status at meetings; and
- to consider methods of recognising each others conservation and management measures

This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

This MOU does not alter the obligations of members of either body to comply with the management and conservation measures of those bodies.

Revisions to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be made by mutual consent of both the parties, by the issuance of a written notification, signed and dated by both parties, prior to any changes being performed.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.

Signed and duly dated:

original signed by _____
Yoshimi Suenaga
Chairman

original signed by _____
Glenn Hurry
Chairman

Commission for the Convention for the
Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Commission for the Conservation of Highly
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and
Central Pacific Ocean

Date: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 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

Recognizing that, *inter alia*, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the WCPF Commission”):

- Adopts measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;
- Ensures that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- Assesses the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- Collects and shares, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- Establishes a committee, which shall be called the Northern Committee, to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20 parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;
- Enters into administrative and financial arrangements as required to utilize scientific services for the purpose of providing information and advice on the

fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources and, in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organizations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organization with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission; and

- Establishes a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest.

Recognizing that the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the ISC”):

- Enhances scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;
- Creates the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region;
- Establishes a central database to support the scientific research of the ISC and continues to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat;
- Establishes subsidiary Working Groups to perform the significant scientific work of the ISC.

The Commission of the WCPFC and the ISC, the participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), have therefore reached the following understanding.

Part I: Provision of Scientific Advice

- The Northern Committee may request from the ISC scientific information and advice regarding fish stocks (generally those stocks occurring mostly north of the 20° parallel of north latitude; see Annex 1) for response prior to each meeting of the Northern Committee. This formal request will be transmitted expeditiously to the ISC. The Commission will, if requested, provide data necessary for the scientific analysis to be conducted by the ISC.
- The ISC will provide requested scientific information and advice in accordance with this MOU one (1) month before the annual meetings of the Northern Committee. ISC will also provide the requested scientific information and advice to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. This scientific information and

advice will follow the standard presented in Annex 2 for standard (recurring) requests or as mutually agreed upon for special requests (see also Part III below).

- The ISC will provide its normal Committees and Working Group reports, prepared under the Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of the ISC Committee and Subsidiary Bodies, including relevant background reports, directly to the Northern Committee, the Commission, and the Scientific Committee.
- ISC scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meeting of the Northern Committee and the Scientific Committee, and may be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the ISC, or a designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups, as appropriate. The participation costs of the ISC Chair, or designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups will be borne by the Member Governments of the ISC Chair and Working Group advisors.

Part II: Framework for Mutual Cooperation

Participants to this MOU will:

- Encourage reciprocal consultations and regular contacts on matters of common interest regarding scientific research on highly migratory tuna and tuna-like resources;
- Regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest; and
- Routinely exchange fishery data, in accordance with the rules and procedures for data confidentiality adopted by each organization, to minimize duplicative data collection efforts and enhance fishery monitoring and stock assessment through the use of common data sources.

The Executive Director of the Commission, or designate, including the Chair of the Northern Committee and Chair of the Scientific Committee, will be invited to observe the plenary meetings of the ISC and its Working Groups. The Chair of the ISC, or designate, will be invited to observe the annual meetings of the Commission and meetings of the Northern Committee and Scientific Committee, as well as other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The costs of participation will be borne by each Organization respectively.

Part III: Finance

- ISC will provide its normal reports and the reports of its Working Groups, as well as standard (recurring) scientific information and advice, without cost to the Commission.
- The Commission will pay, as mutually decided, costs for special scientific advice requested by the Commission.

Part IV: General Administrative Arrangements

- This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives in both the Commission and ISC.
- This MOU may be modified by written consent of both Commission and ISC and signed by the responsible representative in each organization. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of both the responsible representatives of the Commission and ISC.
- If any dispute should arise between the Commission and ISC on the operation of this MOU, both will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilizing a mutually decided arbiter.
- Either Commission or ISC may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from this MOU. Upon termination of the MOU, any funds provided for special, typically non-recurring, scientific advice shall be refunded to the Commission (see Part III above).
- A full review of the terms and operation of the MOU and its Annexes will be conducted as soon as practicable after the first full 12 months of operation following its signature by the Commission and the ISC and subsequently every three years.

Part V: Signature

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:

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Chair
Commission for the Conservation and
Management of Highly Migratory Fish
Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Chair
International Scientific Committee for
Tuna and Tuna-like Species
in the North Pacific Ocean

ANNEX 1

Provisional list of species and/or stocks in the North Pacific Ocean for which the Northern Committee may request standard (recurring) advice from the ISC:

- North Pacific albacore
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- Swordfish and other billfishes
- By-catch (fish and non-fish) species

Other species may be added to the list with the mutual written concurrence of the Participants to this MOU.

ANNEX 2

Standard (recurring) advice required from ISC by the Northern Committee:

For tuna and tuna-like species that occur primarily in the North Pacific Ocean, the ISC will report annually to the Northern Committee of the WCPFC on:

1. Performance of the monitored fisheries
2. Progress in stock assessment research and future needs
3. Status of stocks
4. Advice on conservation measures
 - a. Management measures needed
 - b. Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing measures

Any additional ISC tasks needed to support WCPFC will be delineated in annual service agreements established at the outset of each year and in accordance with Part III.

**6TH MEETING OF THE SECRETARIATS OF TUNA REGIONAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS**

New York, USA – 21 May 2006

Attendance:

Robin Allen (Chair) - Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
Driss Meski – International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Brian Macdonald – Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
Drew Wright – Western And Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)
Sachiko Tsuji – Food and Agriculture Organisation

Item 1. Appointment of Chairman and Rapporteur

Robin Allen was appointed chairman and Brian Macdonald as rapporteur.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

The attached agenda was adopted.

Item 3. FIRMS

The meeting discussed the on-going amendments to FIRMS by the FAO agreed to continue to solicit FAO to stabilise the product, make faster practical progress and to spend less time in perfecting protocols.

Participants also discussed the partner descriptions in FIRMS. Of particular concern at this time was apparent FAO efforts to draft different descriptions to that provided by the FIRMS partners.

It was agreed that as originally incorporated in the agreements with the FAO, the view of the tuna RFMOs was that the descriptions provided by the partners would be the responsibility of the relevant RFMO.

The meeting noted that IATTC had already conveyed this view to the FAO. Other RFMO agreed to respond in similar terms to that of the ICCAT response.

Item 4. Trade/Catch Documentation

ICCAT outlined the outcome of its April 2006 meeting on trade documentation, which was judged to have been more productive than a previous meeting convened to discuss this matter. The meeting was advised that the focus of the ICCAT meeting had been

statistical documentation rather than catch documentation. ICCAT indicated that some differences have emerged between its members particularly in the context of statistical documents being used to control and manage quotas. The matter will now be discussed at the ICCAT annual meeting later in 2006.

The issue of harmonization was not discussed at the ICCAT meeting in April 2006. However the meeting noted the tuna RFMO Secretariats should continue to work on the matter and noted that Australia had developed a harmonized model trade document, which might be used as a template for further activity.

The WCPFC indicated the matter had been raised at its last annual meeting in December 2005. Japan had proposed a trade document similar to that being used by the other RFMOs. However, this was not agreed as other members preferred to develop a catch documentation scheme.

The CCSBT advised that it was possible that it would be asked to develop a catch document scheme in the light of recent catch reporting difficulties, which are to be discussed at a Special Meeting of the CCSBT in July 2006. The CCSBT advised that in preliminary thinking on the matter, it was considering an electronic system of real time reporting direct to the Secretariat. The CCSBT was looking at the CCAMLR model for some guidance but felt the CCAMLR system was a little too cumbersome and complicated for the structure of the SBT fishery. The CCSBT agreed to share developments with the other RFMOs. The meeting noted that the data inputs required of such a system would be manageable for a RFMO such as the CCSBT where the membership comprised developed countries with industrial fleets. This would not be the case for RFMOs with members from developing countries. ICCAT observed that such countries already consider data requirements to be excessive.

FAO will be holding a meeting in Santiago, Spain in the week commencing 29 May 2006 where catch documentation will be discussed. ICCAT will be attending that meeting and will report matters of interest to the other tuna RFMOs.

5. Positive/Negative Vessel Lists

IATTC outlined the current situation on its activities to develop a common vessel list of authorised fishing vessels from the vessel lists of the various tuna RFMOs. This list currently includes vessels authorized by ICCAT, IATTC, SPC and IOTC and includes 17,000 vessels of which about half appear to be duplicated.

It was agreed that the ICCAT list would be developed into a global tuna RFMO vessel list to include authorized vessels from ICCAT, IATTC, CCSBT, WCPFC, IOTC and the FFA. WCPFC advised that its list was under development and the FFA list could be regarded as a proxy for some of the eventual WCPFC list. It was also agreed that the tuna RFMO authorized vessel list would be placed on a combined tuna RFMO website to be organized by ICCAT. The list would be maintained by IATTC.

The participants noted that other organizations were undertaking work to develop a global list of fishing vessels, including the FAO, ICUN and the High Seas Task Force. The participants agreed that the tuna RFMOs would assist these developments where possible and would utilise their work to improve the tuna RFMO list where possible, such as the development of unique vessel identifying code.

6. Proposed Common Website

ICCAT presented a proposal for a common website for the tuna RFMOs, which would hold general information and links to the five tuna bodies.

It was agreed to support the website financially, which would be maintained by ICCAT. The cost was estimated at about €25 per month.

7. Gear and Vessel Codes

The FAO advised that it and the CWP had been developing new gear and vessel codes in order to produce a unique coding system with harmonized codes. In this context some codes have been deleted and/or amalgamated.

FAO indicated that tuna RFMOs now made up one third of the CWP members and that it was preferable if these bodies were to direct any recoding effort for their fisheries.

FAO will place this matter on the agenda for the next CWP meeting and participants agreed that their organizations would work together in that forum in relation to the codes for tuna fisheries.

8. International Observers – Implementation of ICCAT Recommendation on Transshipment.

CCSBT advised that its Secretariat had been asked to develop a discussion paper on an international observer program for the SBT fishery and sought advice from other RFMOs on their experiences.

The discussion focused, in particular, on the practical difficulties including issues such as deployment, cultural affinity, cost, safety and the risk of collusion with fishing interests.

It was noted that alternatives to observer programs should be considered if the difficulties were judged to be particularly onerous. Such measures included VMS, catch documentation and port unloading monitoring.

ICCAT outlined its recent activities in relation to its Commission's decision to place observers on transshipment activity. The ICCAT Secretariat developed a program and has now been asked to implement that program. The cost is estimated at €1.5 million. ICCAT indicated that its Secretariat cannot undertake the task and it is intended to contract the

task to a third party provider. A copy of the ICCAT tender document was provided to the other RFMOs on a confidential basis for information.

9. Other Business

The WPFC briefed the meeting on discussions with the chair of the UNSFA Review Conference.

The participants discussed the difficulties they are experiencing with non-payment of contributions by members. This was seen as a major problem, which is threatening the operational viability of their RFMOs. It was agreed that the chairman would raise this matter at the UNSFA review conference.