



THIRD REGULAR SESSION

Apia, Samoa

11-15 December 2006

JOINT MEETING OF TUNA RFMOs

WCPFC3-2006/27

10 November 2006

Paper prepared by the organizers of the Joint Meeting

As supported by the 26th meeting of the Committee of Fisheries of FAO (COFI) held in March 2005, Japan will host a joint meeting of tuna RFMOs with FAO technical cooperation.

1. Date

22 (Mon) to 26 (Fri) January, 2007

2. Venue

International Conference Center Kobe

Kobe, Japan

(URL: <http://www.kcva.or.jp/>)

3. Participants

(i) Secretariats of tuna RFMOs

- Secretariats of all the tuna RFMOs (WCPFC, IATTC, IOTC, ICCAT and CCSBT) are invited to participate in the Meeting.
- They will be requested to give presentation (including submission of papers for distribution) at the Meeting on the current situation and challenges they are facing.
- It is requested for each RFMO to arrange necessary budget to attend the Meeting.

(ii) Members, Cooperating Non-Members of RFMOs (in case of WCPFC, including Territories referred to in Article 43 of the Convention)

- All the Members, Cooperating Non-Members of RFMOs and Territories participating WCPFC are requested to participate in the Meeting. Notification to attend the Meeting should be made directly to the Fisheries Agency of Japan.
- Cooperating Non-Members, not currently Member of any RFMOs, are Indonesia (IOTC), Guyana and Netherlands Antilles (ICCAT). Territories participating WCPFC are Tokelau (NZ), French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna (France).

(iii) FAO

- FAO will be requested to give presentation (including submission of papers for distribution) at the Meeting on the current situation of the cannery market and the

overview of the stock status of the tuna resources in the world.

(iv) Observers

- IGOs and NGOs which have the observer status at any RFMOs and not been rejected to be observers of any other RFMOs are able to attend the Meeting as observers.
- Application to attend the Meeting should be made through the relevant RFMO to the Fisheries Agency of Japan. Japan might ask other RFMOs to provide relevant records concerning the observer status of each RFMO.

4. Agenda and Expected Outcome

- Major issues to be discussed will be i) review of the current situation of RFMOs and markets and ii) consideration of actions to improve management of tunas such as coordination of measures adopted by RFMOs and capacity control.
- It is expected to adopt an Action Plan and Recommendation to further harmonize tuna conservation and management measures among RFMOs.
- Draft Agenda together with Draft Action Plan and Recommendation will be distributed through RFMOs before the Meeting.

5. Arrangement of the Meeting

- Preliminary schedule of the Meeting is attached. The Meeting shall elect Chair and Vice-Chair. Japan will contact with FAO and chairs of RFMOs concerning the possibility to nominate capable persons as facilitators for discussions on each of major issues.
- At the Meeting, statement may be given in English, French, Spanish and Japanese. Any documents prepared for the Meeting will be available at least in English. Draft Agenda and Draft Action Plan and Recommendation will be available in English, French and Spanish. The Secretariat will not be able to translate or print documents brought to the Meeting by participants. Documents related to the work of the Meeting will be distributed by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the documents are submitted.
- The Meeting will produce one official report, which will contain the Action Plan and Recommendation, the list of participants and the document list. No verbatim report will be produced of any part of the Meeting proceedings.
- Fisheries Agency of Japan will play the role of a secretariat of the Meeting with FAO technical cooperation.

Contact: Akihiro Mae (Mr)
International Affairs Division
Resources Management Department
Fisheries Agency
Tel: +81-3-3502-8459, Fax: +81-3-3502-0571
e-mail: tuna_rfmos@nm.maff.go.jp