



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
NINETEENTH REGULAR SESSION**

Fukuoka, Japan
6 – 7 July 2023

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-NC19-2023/03

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 Opening of meeting

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC19) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), held in Fukuoka, Japan, during 6 – 7 July 2023.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC19-2023/02. Any other matters raised here can be discussed under Agenda Item 8.3 (Other business).

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will ask the Secretariat to brief the hybrid meeting arrangements to support the online meeting participants to be familiar with their virtual meeting process.

1.4 Report from ISC and SC

1.4.1 Report from ISC

NC19 will review the report from the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) on a provisional basis (i.e. report from the relevant Working Groups of the ISC). The 23rd Plenary Meeting of the ISC (ISC23) will be held right after NC19. Therefore, additional output from ISC23 may be reviewed at a separate NC19 online meeting in September 2023 that would be held if necessary.

1.4.2 Report from SC

The 19th Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee will be held on 16 – 24 August 2023. Therefore, key outcomes from SC19 may be reviewed at a separate NC19 online meeting in September 2023 that would be held if necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 Pacific bluefin tuna (CMM 2021-02)

According to the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*, NC tasks for 2023 include:

- a) Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings.
- b) Based on relevant work results from ISC and other pertinent information, recommend any necessary changes to CMM on Pacific bluefin tuna.
- c) Work in the JWG to further develop harvest strategy.
- d) JWG to recommend a set of operational management objectives and performance indicators for use in an MSE process and consider refining candidate HCRs and RPs.
- e) Obtain an overview of the ISC's technical workplan and any progress on the MSE, including but not limited to clarifications needed and consider at JWG8.
- f) If additional information is requested by the ISC from the JWG relevant to the MSE, JWG to solicit input from its stakeholders and task itself to address this at JWG9 in 2024, as appropriate.
- g) JWG to recommend an Interim Harvest Strategy to be applied during the period from the year in which the stock is projected to achieve the second rebuilding target of 20%SSB₀ to when a long-term harvest strategy based on MSE process is implemented.
- h) Develop CDS based on the inputs from members and recommendations of the JWG, and further develop a draft CMM if needed.

NC19 will review the outcomes of the JWG-08 meeting and adopt results as needed.

2.2 North Pacific albacore (CMM 2019-03)

According to the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*, NC tasks for 2023 include:

- a) Review the compiled members' reports and identify and rectify shortcomings;
- b) Further development of harvest strategy including establishment of harvest control rules, which may include formulas for setting fishing intensity based on agreed reference points, and consider exceptional circumstances as appropriate to complete Task (B)(2) [i.e., Task (B)(2): *continue to work to establish reference points and other elements of harvest strategies, if appropriate based on MSE*] ; and
- c) Obtain the new assessment results from ISC and recommend any necessary changes to CMM. (Task (B) (3)) [i.e., Task (B)(3): *recommend any changes to CMM*].

2.2.1 Reports from CCMs and Observers

NC19 will review the compiled members' reports on catch and effort data based on CMM 2019-03 (CMM for NP albacore) and identify any remaining queries and rectify potential shortcomings.

2.2.2 Harvest control rules and exceptional circumstances

To complete the establishment of North Pacific Albacore Harvest Strategy (HS 2022-01), NC19 will review and finalize harvest control rules as part of the harvest strategy for North Pacific albacore, consistent with Figure 1 in [Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery \(HS 2022-01\)](#), and recommend it to the Commission for adoption.

In addition, NC19 will also review criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances developed by the ISC for updates of HS 2022-01.

2.2.3 Review of the CMM 2019-03

NC19 will review the effectiveness of the CMM for NP Albacore, and any proposals, if available, for amending the CMM 2019-03 as appropriate.

2.3 North Pacific swordfish (CMM 2022-02)

NC work programme for 2023 includes:

- a) *NC19 will review the results of a benchmark stock assessment conducted in 2023 for NP swordfish and consider appropriate amendment to the CMM.*
- b) *Consider responses from the ISC to NC requests (Para 39, NC18 Summary Report).
39. The NC requests that the ISC BILLWG conduct an analysis of how catch and effort for NP swordfish varies spatially in the North Pacific, with the aim of estimating the proportion of catch and effort north and south of 20° N in the Convention and including this information in the 2023 stock assessment for NP swordfish.*
- c) *Consider and recommend appropriate TRP and associated HCR.*

According to the above Work Programme, NC19 will 1) review the results of 2023 stock assessments for any revision of the current CMM 2022-02, 2) further consider the application area of the CMM 2022-02, and 3) review of candidate TRPs and associated HCRs. NC19 recommends any revised CMM if available, and appropriate TRP and associated HCR for further development of the Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Swordfish Fishery.

2.3.1 Review of CMM for NP Swordfish (CMM 2022-02)

NC19 will review the results of 2023 stock assessments for any revision of the current CMM 2022-02, including further discussion on the application area of the CMM and suggested changes during the discussion at WCPFC19, and recommend any revision if available to the Commission.

2.3.2 Development of a management framework

NC19 will continue to discuss the harvest strategy for the NP swordfish stocks and/or fisheries, including review of interim management objectives, candidate TRPs and associated HCRs for further development of the Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Swordfish Fishery.

AGENDA ITEM 3 CLIMATE CHANGE

As agreed at WCPFC19 (Para 51, WCPFC19 Outcomes Document), Climate Change is a new agenda item for the Northern Committee.

51. Recognizing the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area, and any related impacts on the economies of CCMs and food security and the livelihoods of their people, in particular Small Island Developing States and Participating Territories, the Commission agrees to include Climate Change as a standing agenda item and to prioritize discussion of how best to incorporate climate change information and analyses in its work, as well as the work of TCC and the NC.

NC19 will consider any impacts of climate change on northern stocks and prioritize climate change information and analyses to incorporate into its work.

AGENDA ITEM 4 REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

NC19 may review any information regarding implementation of the regional observer program for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20°N (CMM 2018-05).

AGENDA ITEM 5 DATA

NC work programme for 2023 includes:

- a) *CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission; and*
- b) *Encourage submission to Commission of Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore, North Pacific striped marlin and swordfish data from all CCMs and make available to ISC.*

5.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks

Based on the NC Work Programme, NC19 will review the progress of data submission and identify and rectify any additional data gaps.

AGENDA ITEM 6 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

6.1 ISC

NC19 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

6.2 IATTC

NC19 will continue to exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore management.

AGENDA ITEM 7 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 Work Programme for 2023-2025

NC19 will review, and revise as needed, the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*.

AGENDA ITEM 8 OTHER MATTERS

8.1 Administrative arrangements for the Committee

8.1.1 Secretariat functions and costs

NC19 is invited to review and further consider the operation of the NC Secretariat, and costs related with NC activities.

8.1.2 Rules of Procedure

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC19 will consider the Rules of Procedure for NC.

8.2 Next meeting

The date and place for the Twentieth Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

8.3 Other business

NC19 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

9 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 15TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE

NC19 will adopt the Summary Report of its 19th Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the Summary Report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the Members on all or any part of the Summary Report.

10 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting is scheduled to close at 5pm on 7 July 2023.