



**FISHERIES AGENCY**

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN  
2-1, 1-Chome, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0013, Japan TEL: +81-3-3502-8111 EXT:

Mr. Glenn Hurry  
Chairman of WCPFC  
c/o Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601  
AUSTRALLIA

November 9, 2006

Dear Chairman Hurry,

I wish to refer to the third regular session of the Commission to be held in Apia, Samoa in December. As you may expect, a series of substantial items will be discussed, which encompass different aspects such as management of tuna resources, monitoring and surveillance, and administration of the organization. There is no doubt that the coming session will be one of the most important opportunities for us to direct the WCPFC on the right track.

I take this occasion to express my appreciation for the continued efforts by CCMs and the Secretariat in order to advance a variety of matters which are of our concern. Given relatively limited time, how we effectively and efficiently deal with the items, which require deliberation and consistent guidance by the Commission, is one of the important points which underlie all of the issues before us.

I wish to underscore that certain order with predictability of the proceeding of the session should be ensured for the benefits of all the members. There may be some room for the improvement on the conduct and method of meeting including its preparatory stage, so that every member could participate in and contribute to the work under the Commission with confidence.

In this context, I would like to remind you of the paragraph 30 of the summary record of Commission's second session. It says that "[t]he Commission agreed in good faith that, despite Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure that requires 24 hours notice, Members would try to submit draft proposals 30 days prior to the Annual Session of the Commission to allow all Members adequate time for consideration and consultation." I would request you, as the Chair of the Commission, to invite all the Members to fully respect this spirit of cooperation.

With these general thoughts in our mind, followings are Japan's comments and suggestions on particular items of the coming session:

1. Agenda and Time table

As for the provisional agenda items, Japan does not propose additional items to the agenda at this stage. However, Japan is concerned about the proposed time schedule which is heavily stuffed with many items; nevertheless, some of them are not necessarily of urgent nature.

I would suggest that the time during the session should be preferably allocated for the items which have already been discussed at the previous meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Therefore, I request the time-table of the meeting should be reconsidered. In particular, entire Friday should be secured in order to conclude the meeting including for Commission's household issues and adoption of the report. In practice, no new substantial items should be introduced for initial discussion at the floor on the last day.

## 2. Ad-hoc Working Group on financial and administrative matters

In this context, Japan would like to propose the establishment of "Ad-hoc Working Group on financial and administrative matters" to consider issues which entail financial and administrative implications. Under the limitation of time available, the Commission may not be able to exhaust its discussion at the plenary. For consideration, draft terms of reference of the WG is attached as Appendix 1. For the reference of other members, I am obliged to note that the massive increase of the Commission's assessed contribution without full scrutiny and justification would cause difficulty for Japan to accept Commission's annual budget.

## 3. Statistical Document Program

As for the Japan's proposal on Statistical Document Program, Japan is going to submit its original proposal as it is to the coming Commission meeting, for further consideration among the members. The mere fact that the similar proposal is under consideration by some members cannot be a reason for the denial because, if such excuse is easily accepted, any proposal could be blocked in the same manner.

In order to make progress on the issue, Japan would like to hear from the Members that expressed their unwillingness on the SDP about the reason for their unwillingness, and their views and suggestions on specific part of Japanese proposal, in particular, what kind of difficulties the members have in implementing the scheme already established and implemented by other states including developing states. In fact, since statistical document and catch document is not mutually exclusive, the Commission can adopt the statistical document scheme first and continue our talk on desirability and feasibility of rather broader catch document scheme if we so wish.

In this context, I wish to remind all of the members that, without the SDP, the WCPFC remains unable to obtain the catch statistics of Bigeye from the non-Members, particularly from non-cooperating non-members that export their products to foreign market. Since some non-members does/can not collect and submit the data, the SDP is indispensable tool to obligate importing nations to conduct the task.

## 4. Negative vessel list proposal

The comments by Japan on the negative vessel list proposal by EU are attached as Appendix 2. I would add that the statistical document scheme is a critical tool so that the negative vessel list be effective in addressing the IUU fishing. I would suggest that both negative vessel list and statistical document should be adopted by the Commission as an effective package.

5. MOU between WCPFC and FFA

The comment by Japan on the proposed MOU between WCPFC and FFA is attached as Appendix 3. The basic point is that specific aspects and items should be cooperatively dealt between WCPFC and FFA and that their respective status should be clarified in light of its transparency and accountability.

6. Other pending items

As for other substantial items to be discussed at the coming session of the Commission such as management measures for Bigeye and Yellowfin, transshipment at sea, charter regulation, and regional observer program, Japan reserves its right to make further action at a later stage, upon careful reflection on proposals to be submitted by members or Secretariat. In particular, Secretariat's proposal on the VMS, is scheduled to be submitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, is one of our concerns and needs full consideration.

Finally, I am pleased to note that Japan is prepared to have informal consultations with interested CCMs with regard to any relevant matters before or during the Commission meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues in Tokyo; Japanese delegation will arrive in Apia on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. In any case, due cooperation based on mutual trust among us is only the key for the long-term success in this forum.

I would appreciate it if you kindly forward this letter to other CCMs. I am looking forward to seeing you and your colleagues in Apia.

Thank you for your cooperation.

With best regards,



Akira Nakamae  
Deputy Director General  
Japanese Commissioner to WCPFC  
c/o International Affairs Division  
Fisheries Agency of Japan  
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-8907 Japan

cc: Mr. Andrew Wright, the Executive Director