



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

11-22 August 2008
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

WCPFC-SC4-2008/03 rev.1

AGENDA ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting will open at 08:30 on Monday, 11 August 2008.

1.1 Welcome address

The Chair will welcome delegations of the WCPFC Members, cooperating non-members and participating territories (CCMs) and observers to the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee.

The Chair will introduce dignitaries who will present a welcome address.

1.2 Adoption of agenda

The provisional agenda for the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee was prepared and distributed on 11 May 2008 in accordance with Rule 1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Any member of the Commission, the Chairman, or the Executive Director may, at least 30 days before the date fixed for the opening of a regular session request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. A request for the inclusion of a supplementary item on the provisional agenda shall be accompanied by a written explanation of the proposed supplementary item, which will be communicated to all CCMs and observers at least 20 days before the opening of the session.

Other matters to be discussed under Agenda Item 11 will be proposed here.

1.3 Meeting arrangements

The Chair will outline the procedural matters including the time schedule for the meeting and any in-house arrangements. After the conclusion of Agenda Item 2, the plenary will be adjourned to allow the six Specialist Working Groups (SWGs) to carry out their work.

1.4 Reporting arrangements

Scientific Committee Report

The Scientific Committee will adopt a Summary Report and an Executive Summary that will focus on addressing the requests from the Commission. Relevant text under Agenda Items highlighted with an asterisk (*) in the Summary Report will be incorporated into the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary may also include a brief summary of research plans, findings or conclusions on the stock status, reports and recommendations as directed, or on the initiative of the Scientific Committee (paragraph 2, Article 12 of the Convention).

The Scientific Committee will have the assistance of a professional coordinating rapporteur as a lead rapporteur for its plenary meeting, the second week of the Scientific Committee. The Committee will appoint supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items.

Specialist Working Group Reports

The Specialist Working Groups will each produce a ‘full SWG report’ and a ‘1-page summary’ that will be incorporated into the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee.

Each ‘full SWG report’ will include an overview of papers considered by the SWG (to be provided by the authors) including a summary of subsequent discussion, findings, advice and recommendations for the Scientific Committee. Respective reports should include text that can be considered by the Scientific Committee for incorporation into the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee, particularly as discussion relates to Scientific Committee Agenda Items marked with an asterisk (*). Each SWG report will append its agenda, a list of working papers, and a list of relevant acronyms and abbreviations used. All presenters will provide a concise (1–2 paragraph) summary of their paper in electronic form to the convenor of their SWG before their presentation.

Each SWG ‘1-page summary’ will be incorporated directly into the main Scientific Committee Summary Report and include: details of the papers reviewed, the topics discussed and details of Scientific Committee agenda items on which the SWG has provided advice to the Scientific Committee.

Each SWG will appoint lead and supporting rapporteurs, who will be assigned to specific agenda items. The SWG convenors and participants will be asked to review draft SWG reports throughout the first week of the Scientific Committee. The reports should be finalized under the supervision of the relevant convenors for presentation to the plenary at the start of the second week of the Committee meeting.

1.5 Intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee

The Chair will report on intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 2 REVIEW OF FISHERIES

2.1 Overview of Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) fisheries

A presentation will be made describing the fisheries for highly migratory species in the WCPO region. The Scientific Committee will be invited to ask questions and provide comments.

2.2 Overview of Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) fisheries

A presentation will be made describing the fisheries for highly migratory species in the EPO region. The Scientific Committee will be invited to ask questions and provide comments.

2.3 Fishery reports from Members, Participating Territories and Cooperating Non-Members (CCMs)

CCMs will be given the opportunity to make a presentation of no more than 3 minutes highlighting recent changes and developments in their fisheries as described in Part 1 of their Annual Report to the Commission. A short time for questions may be provided at the conclusion of each presentation. The deadline for the submission of Part 1 of the Annual Report to the Secretariat (wcpfc@mail.fm) is 11 July 2008. Presenters of CCM Fishery Reports are required to prepare a half page summary (attached to Part 1 as “Summary of Part 1 of the Annual Report”) to accompany their report for inclusion in the Summary Report of the Scientific Committee. Rapporteurs will capture the key issues raised in subsequent discussion for inclusion in the Scientific Committee report. It will be assumed that all reports have been read prior to the meeting. The use of PowerPoint or other visual presentations is discouraged due to time constraints.

CCMs are requested to submit any outstanding Part 1 reports for previous years with their Annual Reports for 2007. The status of Part 1 submissions can be checked on the WCPFC website.

2.4 Reports from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations

Regional fisheries bodies or other organizations in attendance will be able to make a brief (3 minutes) presentation on key issues relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee. Such presentations need to be arranged with the Chair before the opening of the meeting. The deadline for the submission of meeting documents to the Secretariat (wcpfc@mail.fm) from regional fisheries bodies and other organizations is 23 July 2008.

The plenary of the Scientific Committee will be adjourned.

AGENDA ITEM 3 SPECIALIST WORKING GROUPS (SWGs)

Meetings for six SWGs, Biology SWG, Ecosystem and Bycatch SWG, Fishing Technology SWG, Methods SWG, Statistics SWG, and Stock Assessment SWG, are provided for during the first week of the Scientific Committee.

SWG conveners will open their meetings in accordance with their meeting schedules. Each SWG will respond to the requests from the Commission as the highest priority. The SWGs will make every effort to finalize their reports for adoption by the plenary of the Scientific Committee.

All SWG meetings will be concluded by the end of the first week of the Scientific Committee and the plenary meeting of the Scientific Committee will resume at the start of its second week.

3.1 Adoption of the all SWG reports, including advice and recommendations

The Scientific Committee will clear and adopt all SWG reports, including advice and recommendations to the Scientific Committee, as records of the work of the Scientific Committee through its SWGs. All SWG conveners will assist in clearing their reports. Editorial corrections and/or clarification may occur, if necessary, after the Scientific Committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 STATUS OF THE STOCKS AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

4.1 WCPO bigeye tuna

a. Status and trends*

A new stock assessment was conducted for bigeye tuna in 2008. The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the WCPO bigeye tuna stock.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations that will support the development of the CMM, *inter alia*, on consideration of the status of stocks, and the potential for technological solutions to maximize the selectivity of fishing gear for juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna while minimizing the impact on the skipjack fishery (WCPFC4 Report, paragraphs 286-287).

The Scientific Committee will also provide information, analysis and evaluation of relevant management options (WCPFC4 Report, paragraphs 279-280).

4.2 WCPO yellowfin tuna

a. Status and trends*

No stock assessment was conducted for yellowfin tuna in 2008. The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trends in abundance of the WCPO yellowfin tuna stock.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations, *inter alia*, on consideration of the status of stocks and the potential for technological solutions to maximize the selectivity of fishing gear for small tuna on floating objects (juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna) while minimizing the impact on the skipjack fishery (WCPFC4 Report, paragraphs 286-287, SC3 paragraphs 207-208).

The Scientific Committee will provide information, analysis and evaluation of relevant management options (WCPFC4 Report, paragraphs 279-280).

4.3 WCPO skipjack tuna

a. Status and trends*

A new stock assessment was conducted for skipjack tuna in 2008. The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the WCPO skipjack tuna stock.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations, *inter alia*, on consideration of the status of stocks and the potential for technological solutions to maximize the selectivity of fishing gear for juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna while minimizing the impact on the skipjack fishery (WCPFC4 Report, paragraphs 286-287; SC3 paragraphs 207-208).

4.4 South Pacific albacore

a. Status and trends*

A new stock assessment was conducted for albacore in 2008. The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the South Pacific albacore stock.

The Scientific Committee, if needed, may consider work required to obtain more consistency in the North and South Pacific albacore assessments (SC3 Report, paragraph 131).

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.5 Southwest Pacific swordfish

a. Status and trends*

An assessment of southwest Pacific swordfish stock was conducted by CSIRO as part of the SC3 Work Programme. The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the swordfish stock in the southwest Pacific.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee may consider the fishery status of southwest Pacific swordfish from catch data and vessel information submitted, as agreed by the Commission, by CCMs (WCPFC4 Report, paragraph 256)

To support the review of the CMM-2006-03 by the Commission, scheduled for 2008, the Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.6 Southwest Pacific striped marlin

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs regarding the current status and trend in abundance of the striped marlin stock in the southwest Pacific.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the SWGs, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.7 Northern stocks

The Scientific Committee will invite the ISC to provide a summary of the 8th Meeting of the ISC and presentations on the status of northern stocks.

4.7.1 North Pacific albacore

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC regarding the current status and trend in abundance of North Pacific albacore.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.7.2 Pacific bluefin tuna

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC regarding the current status and trend in abundance of Pacific bluefin tuna.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.7.3 North Pacific striped marlin

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC regarding the current status and trend in abundance of North Pacific striped marlin.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

The Scientific Committee will consider a draft conservation and management measure, developed by the working group on North Pacific striped marlin, as requested by the Commission (WCPFC4 Report, paragraph 127).

The Scientific Committee, if needed, will review further information provided by the ISC for the inclusion of North Pacific striped marlin as a “northern stock” (SC3 Report, paragraph 165).

4.7.4 North Pacific swordfish

a. Status and trends*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC regarding the current status and trend in abundance of North Pacific swordfish.

b. Management Advice and Implications*

The Scientific Committee will consider and finalize, as appropriate, any statements provided from the ISC, in particular:

- Recommendations about current levels of catch/effort/fishing mortality (whichever is appropriate) taking into account the current status of the stock and future projections, if any.

4.8 Review of stock assessment and management-related matters

a. Review of ‘A comprehensive review and proposed investigation of the age, growth, and reproductive biology of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean’

The Scientific Committee will be invited to review any statements or recommendations from the SWGs on the results of the consultancy to develop a proposal to undertake a Pacific-wide study of bigeye tuna biology. The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission to seek funding for the implementation of the project. The Biology SWG may assist the Committee’s deliberation.

b. Review of ‘A scoping study on reference points and management strategy evaluation (MSE)’

The Scientific Committee will be invited to review any statements or recommendations from the SWGs on the results of the consultancy of a study “A scoping study on reference points and management strategy evaluation (MSE)”. The Methods SWG may assist the Committee’s deliberation.

AGENDA ITEM 5 BYCATCH MITIGATION

The EB-SWG, FT-SWG and other relevant SWGs will provide advice and recommendations to the Scientific Committee for its consideration under this Agenda Item.

5.1 Seabirds*

The Scientific Committee will annually review any new information on new or existing mitigation measures or on seabird interactions from observer or other monitoring programmes (CMM-2007-04, paragraph 6).

The Scientific Committee will also estimate seabird mortality in all fisheries to which the WCPF Convention applies, based on all available information provided by CCMs on interactions with seabirds, including the by-catch and details of species. CCMs are requested to provide such information in Part 1 of their Annual Report (CMM-2007-04, paragraph 9).

5.2 Sharks*

The Scientific Committee will provide advice on the implementation and effectiveness of the CMM-2006-05, any alternative measures applied under paragraph 11 of the measure, and the application of any additional measures for the management of shark stocks in the Convention Area, as appropriate (CMM-2006-05, paragraph 13). The Scientific Committee will review shark catches to the lowest possible taxonomic level from the CCM's Annual Report (WCPFC4 Report, paragraph 89) to assist in the identification of key shark species (SC3 Report, paragraph 200).

5.3 Small tuna on floating objects (STFO)*

In response to the control of sets on FADs for the purse seine fishery (CMM-2005-01, paragraph 15), the Scientific Committee will review any research outcomes to reduce the bycatch of STFO, especially:

- The review, by the Commission's Science Service Provider, of spatio-temporal aspects of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs) and refined analyses of potential management options that the Commission might adopt in order to reduce such catches, including cooperation with other RFMOs to identify appropriate mitigation measures;
- The research of CCMs into acoustic selectivity to avoid STFO as well as research into the vertical distribution and residence time of STFO; and
- Relevant information (gear and operational modes) being collected by CCMs through observer programmes and port sampling and submitted to the Commission in order to assess the impacts of FADs and other technological aspects on catches of STFO.

In addition, the Scientific Committee will review any advice and recommendations from the FT-SWG regarding the outcomes of any industry-associated research, as described in paragraph 7 of the CMM-2006-01 and paragraphs 207-208 of the SC3 Report, to reduce STFO, and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on proposed and ongoing research and mitigation measures including FAD associated measures.

5.4 Sea turtles*

The Scientific Committee may review and provide to the Commission existing information on sea turtle interactions or summary results of sea turtle research, if available from CCMs, to develop a more complete picture of the effectiveness of the various sea turtle bycatch mitigation strategies.

While the Commission requested TCC 4 to further discuss the contents of Column B in Table 3 of the SC3 Summary Report, the Scientific Committee may provide any scientific appraisal, if available, on the contents of Column B for consideration at TCC4.

5.5 Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA)

SPC-OFP will provide a summary report on progress on the ERA project during 2007/8. This includes assistance to SIDS in implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, method development, capacity building, communications and outreach. A work plan for 2008/9 will be presented. The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations on future research to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM 6 DATA AND INFORMATION

The ST-SWG and other relevant SWGs will provide relevant data and information to the Scientific Committee for its consideration under this Agenda Item. The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Commission with regard to the following agenda items:

6.1 Issues related to data gaps

a. Progress in filling gaps

The Scientific Committee will consider progress and achievements related to data gaps in general (SC3 Report, paragraph 277-279), and the development of the website describing data gaps.

b. Review of ‘A study to identify causes of data gaps in the work of the WCPFC’

The Scientific Committee will consider the results of the review into causes of data gaps.

c. Species composition of purse-seine catches

The Scientific Committee will consider issues related to the species composition of purse-seine catches, and may recommend to the Commission any improvements, to assist stock assessment of bigeye and yellowfin tuna (SC3 Report, paragraph 283-284).

d. Information on seabird mortality

To aid in the estimation of seabird mortality, the Scientific Committee will discuss the collection of information describing interactions with seabirds (CMM-2007-04, paragraph 9).

e. Information on shark catches

To aid in the estimation of shark mortality, the Scientific Committee will discuss the collection of information describing shark catches.

6.2 Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

The Scientific Committee will review the outcomes of the second Intersessional Working Group for the Development of the Regional Observer Programme, and make recommendations with regard to: types of vessel to be covered, minimum fields of scientific data to be collected, and data standards (including the format for the collection of data from the ROP).

6.3 Indonesia and Philippines Data Collection Project (IPDCP)

The IPDCP Steering Committee meeting will be held in the margins of the first week of the Scientific Committee. Membership of the Steering Committee includes Indonesia, the Philippines, donors, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, the SPC OFP, interested CCMs and the Secretariat. The Scientific Committee will review the Steering Committee Chair's summary report.

6.4 Tagging initiatives

The SPC-OFP will provide a progress report for Phase 2 Pacific Tuna Tagging Project. The Steering Committee meeting for Phase 2 will be held in the margins of the first week of the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will review the Steering Committee Chair's summary report.

6.5 Data confidentiality, security, and dissemination

The Scientific Committee may consider, assisted by the ST-SWG, science-related issues, if any, regarding the "Rules and procedures for the protection of, access to and dissemination of data compiled by the Commission" and provide recommendations to the AHTG [Data] and TCC4.

AGENDA ITEM 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

7.1 Review of existing MOUs and relations

The Scientific Committee will review the existing MOUs and relations with other RFMOs and agencies, and recommend modification, if any, for the update and refinement of the MOUs.

7.2 Development of new MOUs*

The Scientific Committee will review draft MOUs with the following organizations.

- a. SPC-OFP (Annex 1. Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community)**

The Scientific Committee will be invited to review and provide comments on the draft Agreement for the provision of scientific services for 2009.

AGENDA ITEM 8 CONSIDERATION OF THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING STATES AND PARTICIPATING TERRITORIES

8.1 Special Requirements Fund

a. Review of 2007/2008 activities

The Scientific Committee will review relevant 2007/2008 intersessional activities for the capacity building in science of developing States and participating territories supported by the Commission's Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund. SPC-OFP and FFA will give a brief report in this regard.

b. Advice and recommendations to the Commission*

The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations in relation to existing activities and proposed new initiatives, if any, for the Special Requirements Fund and Japanese Trust Fund.

AGENDA ITEM 9 FUTURE WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

9.1 Process of formulating the work programme of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will review draft guidelines outlining the process for formulating the work programme and budget of the Scientific Committee to facilitate the efficient and transparent process of, and broad participation in the work programme of the Commission's science.

9.2 Strategic Research Plan 2007-2011 for Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will review, and refine as necessary, the 'Strategic Research Plan 2007-2011'.

9.3 Review of 2008 Work Programme

The Scientific Committee will review the progress of the 2008 Work Programme and consider the termination or carry over of programme activities.

9.4 2009 Work Programme and budget and 2010-2011 provisional Work Programme and indicative budget*

The Scientific Committee will review and update the Work Programme of the Scientific Committee (Attachment O of the SC3 Summary Report).

The Scientific Committee will recommend, assisted by individual SWGs, a priority list of activities for the 2009 Work Programme, an indicative budget and scope and tasks for each research project. The Committee will also recommend a work programme for 2010-2011.

AGENDA ITEM 10 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

10.1 Rules of Procedure

Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee may be considered subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs.

10.2 Independent review of the Science Structure and Function of the Commission

The project contractor (the Marine Resources Assessment Group Ltd, MRAG) will provide a progress report to the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the reviewers for key strategic issues, within the approved terms of reference that should be thoroughly researched and considered in the Review.

10.3 Future operation of the Scientific Committee

Based on the experiences of previous Scientific Committees and feedback from the Commission and other subsidiary bodies, the Scientific Committee will consider the future operation of the Scientific Committee.

10.4 Review of Part 1 of the Annual Report to the Commission*

The Scientific Committee will revisit Part 1 of the Annual Report for consistency with Part 2 and incorporating requests from the WCPFC4, including the provision of catch data and vessel information of southwest Pacific swordfish (WCPFC4 Report, paragraph 256), shark catch data to the lowest possible taxonomic level (WCPFC4 Report, paragraph 89) and seabird mortality (CMM-2007-03, paragraph 9).

10.5 Election of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee*

The Scientific Committee will recommend to the Commission a candidate for Chairman to serve in that role from the end of the WCPFC5 in December 2008, to the end of the WCPFC7, December 2010.

10.6 Next meeting*

Members are invited to propose a time and venue for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11 OTHER MATTERS

The Scientific Committee will consider any other issues raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

AGENDA ITEM 12 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

12.1 Adoption of the Summary Report and Executive Summary of the Fourth Regular Session of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee will adopt the Summary Report of its Fourth Regular Session and its Executive Summary.

AGENDA ITEM 13 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting will close at 17:00 on Friday, 22 August 2008.