



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

11-22 August 2008
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

**FIFTH STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE
INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES DATA COLLECTION PROJECT (IPDCP)**

12-13 August 2008

SUMMARY OF 2007/2008 IPDCP ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE SECRETARIAT

WCPFC-SC4-2008/GN-WP-8

Steering Committee 4 – Summary Report

The Summary Report of the fourth meeting of the IPDCP Steering Committee was posted on the WCPFC website in September 2007 (<http://www.wcpfc.int/sc3/pdf/GN-IP-7%20IPDCP%20Steering%20Committee%20Report.pdf>).

The Second Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery Data Collection (EITFDC-2), Jakarta, Indonesia, 30th May 2008

The Workshop, which was held at the headquarters of the Research Center for Capture Fisheries (RCCF), was attended by 20 participants from four Indonesian government agencies, industry, Australia, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The objective of the meeting was to review the technical aspects of port sampling data collection before commencing field activities in Eastern Indonesia to ensure the WCPFC requirements for data collection are satisfied. It is expected that similar workshops will be conducted on perhaps an annual basis during the establishment of data collection systems in the Eastern Indonesia Tuna Fishery.

The summary report of the workshop is available at: <http://www.wcpfc.int/ipdcp/pdf/EITFDC-2-Report.pdf>

First Philippines/WCPFC Tuna Statistics Review Meeting, BFAR Headquarters, Manila, Philippines, 2-3 June 2008

As identified during Steering Committee 4, the breakdown of species catch estimates by gear type for the Philippines domestic fisheries is one of the most significant gaps in the provision of data

to the WCPFC. This review meeting was convened to specifically review the problems associated with this data gap. It was attended by 24 representatives from Philippine government agencies associated with fisheries and the collection of statistics and the fishing industry.

The meeting reviewed tuna catch estimates that had been provided from different sources, including the estimates derived by the [WCPFC/SPC-OFP] from the data collected under the BFAR National Stock Assessment Project (NSAP) and BAS surveys. The meeting participants were able to agree on tuna catch estimates for the domestic “large-fish” handline, the ring net and purse seine fisheries, but expressed concern on the current yellowfin and bigeye catch estimates from the municipal fisheries. It is expected that this form of review meeting will be established as an annual event until the uncertainty in the annual catch estimates provided for the Philippines domestic fisheries can be resolved.

A summary report, including recommendations, is available at: <http://www.wcpfc.int/ipdcp/pdf/PHTUNSTAT-1-Report.pdf>

Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project

Following a request from Steering Committee 4, the Secretariat prepared a funding proposal for the GEF to support a long term project to complement the IPDCP – including extending project activities to Vietnam. The project proposal was accepted by the GEF Secretariat in late 2007 with a 3-year budget of slightly less than US\$1 million. Initial activities under the project, which is termed a Project Preparatory Grant (PPG), commenced in May 2008.

Utilising GEF funding support amounting to US\$75,000, with complementary funding of US\$42,500 from the WCPFC 2008 budget, the PPG provides resources to support the full design of the 3-year project.

Work to date has included the contracting of three resource specialists; one each for Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam and a regional coordinator. The resources specialists are undertaking baseline work and stakeholder consultations to determine project needs and priorities in relation to i) data collection, fishery monitoring and strengthening of statistical information for tuna fisheries in these three countries, and ii) an appraisal of institutional, policy and legislative frameworks and needs to support greater engagement of these countries in the conservation and management of shared fish stocks in the WCPO and strengthening of the WCPFC in this regard.

The PPG is scheduled for completion in October. The final project document will be submitted to the GEF in November. Providing the project document is accepted by the GEF the 3-year project will commence in early 2009.

US voluntary support

In response to an invitation from the National Marine Fisheries Service (USA) the Secretariat, in association with SPC-OFP, has prepared a funding proposal to address several key issues identified during the First Philippines/WCPFC Tuna Statistics Review Meeting, BFAR Headquarters, Manila, Philippines, 2-3 June 2008. Should funding be approved, two activities, that will complement the proposed work under the GEF project, will focus on i) obtaining as much data as possible from available historical records for tuna fishing in each country with a focus on the principle target species (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye), and ii) ensuring existing, poorly-resourced, systems to collect and compile tuna fishery statistics generate information that

can be integrated to WCPFC data holdings so as to contribute meaningfully to assessments of Western and Central Pacific Ocean tuna stocks.