



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

11-22 August 2008
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

WCPFC-SC4-2008/GN-IP-6

Prepared by the Secretariat

1. SCIENCE SERVICES

The SPC-OFP provided science and data management services in accordance with Annex I of the MOU 2008 between the WCPFC and the SPC. The components of the service agreement include: 1) data management, statistical analyses and related services; 2) stock assessment and related analytical services; 3) research services, and 4) other advisory services. In addition to providing *ad hoc* advice and support throughout the year in relation to activities such as the administration and further development of the website (particularly in respect of data reporting and mitigation), preparations for the Inter-sessional Working Group for the Regional Observer Programme (IWG-ROP), the IPDCP, by-catch mitigation-related work, and the data gaps consultancy, the SPC-OFP produced 27 papers, reports or data summaries for SC4.

2. The 2nd INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAM (IWG-ROP)

The 2nd IWG-ROP was held in Fiji, 7-10 July 2008. The following focused discussion, the IWG was able to recommend the acceptance of the majority of the data fields that were first considered during SC3 at Honolulu in August 2007. The meeting report is on the Commission's IWG-ROP website and the SC4 ST-SWG will have an opportunity to review the work of the IWG-ROP in relation to data fields to be collected by the ROP.

3. MEETING DOCUMENTS

The Secretariat published electronic and hard copy versions of the Summary Report of the Third Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 13-24 August 2007.

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretariat was represented at the following science-related meetings during the last 12 months:

- The IATTC workshop using tagging data for fisheries stock assessment and management at La Jolla, USA, from 15 to 19 October 2007;
- WCPFC stock assessment planning workshop hosted by the SPC at Noumea, New Caledonia, from 25 to 29 February 2008;
- Swordfish stock assessment planning workshop hosted by the SPC and the CSIRO at Noumea, New Caledonia, from 16 to 18 April 2008;
- The 9th meeting of the IATTC working group on stock assessments at La Jolla, USA, from 12 to 16 May 2008; and
- The 8th Plenary of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) at Takamatsu, Japan, from 22 to 27 July 2008.

5. INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES DATA COLLECTION PROJECT (IPDCP)

The Commission continued to support on-going efforts in the Philippines to build capacity to collect accurate tuna fishery data and initiated activities in Indonesia to commence data collection at Bitung and Kendari two important tuna landing ports in the eastern Indonesia. In late May, Indonesia hosted the second data collection workshop in Jakarta, where sampling protocols and data collection formats were agreed between the Research Centre for Capture Fisheries in Indonesia and the SPC, on behalf of the WCPFC.

6. CONSULTANCIES

- Independent review of the Commission's science structure and functions – ongoing project;
- Training and educational materials – plan to support SPC's documentation, publication and distribution of observer training manual, Competency Based Training;
- Revised stock assessment on southern swordfish – results will be presented at SC4;
- Refinement of bigeye parameters – results will be presented at SC4;
- Biology of South Pacific albacore – not yet implemented;
- Pacific Tuna Tagging Programme (PTTP) – have a Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, 16 August 2008;
- ERA and seabird interaction – progress report will be presented at SC4;
- Tuna study under floating objects – results will be presented at SC4;
- Scoping study on reference points and MSE – Preliminary progress will be presented at SC4, further development needed;
- Cause of data gaps study – results will be presented at SC4.