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**2024 Climate Change Workplan Drafting Group
Draft Recommendations and Draft Terms of Reference**

WCPFC20-2023-DP16

4 December 2023

Submitted by the United States

Addressing climate change is a critical issue for the Commission. WCPFC Resolution 2019-01, “Resolution on Climate Change as it Relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission”, outlines agreed climate change concerns and priorities for the Commission. In 2022, WCPFC19 recognized the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific and in so doing, added “Climate Change” as a standing agenda item to each meeting and subsidiary body meeting of the Commission (WCPFC19 Outcomes, paragraph 51). In an effort to continue progressing the work of the Commission it may be helpful to form a workplan drafting group (WDG) for one year. Draft recommendations and draft terms of reference for the WDG are provided for members’ consideration.

Draft WCPFC20 Recommendations

WCPFC20 agreed to form a climate change workplan drafting group (CC WDG) led by XX for one year, to develop a Commission work plan for addressing climate change and fisheries management in the Convention Area.

The 2024 CC WDG should rely on the Convention and WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 as guides and should submit a draft Commission Work Plan on Climate Change for consideration by each subsidiary body in 2024 with the objective of the Commission approving the work plan at WCPFC21.

In developing the Commission’s Climate Work Plan, WCPFC20 requested that the 2024 CC WDG incorporate ongoing efforts on climate from each of the subsidiary bodies and also

provide a framework for coordinating Commission-wide work on climate change.

WCPFC20 requested that the 2024 CC WDG work with the Secretariat to engage other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization and their members to discuss shared challenges, leverage available resources, and identify potential pathways forward, among other things.

2024 Climate Change Workplan Drafting Group (2024 CC WDG)
DRAFT Terms of Reference

Background

WCPFC Resolution 2019-01, “Resolution on Climate Change as it Relates to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission”, outlines agreed climate change concerns and priorities for the Commission. In 2022, WCPFC19 recognized the urgency of developing a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the impacts of climate change on highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific and in so doing, added “Climate Change” as a standing agenda item to each meeting and subsidiary body meeting of the Commission (WCPFC19 Outcomes, paragraph 51).

Objective

The 2024 CC WDG will evaluate current Commission activities in the context of paragraphs 1-5 of WCPFC Resolution 2019-01 and develop a vision and work plan for the Commission to take collective action on managing its fisheries amidst a changing climate. The 2024 CC WDG will conclude its work in 2024, upon providing its draft workplan and recommendations to WCPFC21.

Tasks

1. The 2024 CC WDG will conduct its work via email and the WDG lead(s) would be expected to attend each of the subsidiary body meetings to consult with members in-person on the work plan as it evolves during 2024.
2. A draft workplan will be submitted to each North Committee, Scientific Committee, the Technical and Compliance Committee, and the Finance and Administrative Committee, with the 2024 CC WDG incorporating recommendations from each subsidiary body into

a revised draft workplan for consideration at the subsequent 2024 subsidiary body meeting.

3. Upon consulting all of the WCPFC subsidiary bodies, the 2024 CC WDG will provide a draft workplan and recommendations for consideration by members at WCPFC21
4. The 2024 CC WDG will work with the Secretariat to engage other RFMOs and the FAO in understanding broader fisheries management approaches to addressing climate change.