



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE
Twentieth Regular Session**

15 – 16 July 2024
Kushiro, Japan (Hybrid)

NOTICE OF MEETING AND MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

WCPFC-NC20-2024/01

Secretariat

The Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC20) of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC) will be held at Kushiro Tourism and International Relations Center, Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan, from 15 (Monday) to 16 (Tuesday) July 2024. NC20, chaired by Mr Masanori Miyahara (Japan), will start at 9:00am on 15 – 16 July, with registration starting at 8:00am.

Prior to NC20, the 5th Joint Working Group on Catch Documentation Scheme (JWG-CDS) Technical Meeting and the Ninth Joint IATTC and WCPFC-NC Working Group Meeting on the Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (JWG-09) will be held from Wednesday, 10 July to Saturday, 13 July at the same venue. All participants to NC20 are invited to attend these two meetings.

July 10 th (Wednesday) – 13 th (Saturday)	JWG09 (4 days)
(July 10 th (Wednesday)	CDS Technical Meeting)
July 14 th (Sunday)	Rest Day (1 day)
July 15 th (Monday) – 16 th (Tuesday)	NC20 (2 days)

Registration

On-line meeting registration is available at the [NC20 meeting site](#). All participants are requested to register using the [NC20 registration site](#) as early as possible.

Hybrid Meeting

NC20 will be a physical meeting as well as letting participants attend virtually through Zoom. Interventions done virtually from a member will only be permitted if the HOD or the alternative of the Member is not able to attend the meeting physically. If a Member is unable to physically attend the meeting, please contact the Secretariat (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) for further arrangements.

NC20 Meeting Documents

Provisional agenda and other relevant documents will be available on the WCPFC [NC20 Meeting pages](#). All meeting documents are requested to be submitted to the Secretariat (sungkwon.soh@wcpfc.int) **by Friday, 28 June 2024** for posting on the website two weeks prior to the start of the meeting. All participants will be individually responsible for downloading their meeting documents and printing them as needed.

Meeting Venue

The meeting venue will be:

Kushiro tourism and International Relations Center
(Kushiroshi Kanko Kokusai Koryu Center)
Kushiro City, Hokkaido, Japan

Visas for Japan

Please access the webpage of Japan consular services from the link below to see if you are subject to visa exemption arrangement.

- For diplomatic and official passports:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000692.html

- For ordinary passports:

https://www.mofa.go.jp/i_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Unless your visa is exempted, you will need to apply for a visa well in advance of your travel. Following website offers comprehensive information on visa application; however, due to the complex nature of visa requirements, it is highly recommended to contact the Consular Section of the Embassy or Consulate General of Japan nearest you for more information.

[VISA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan \(mofa.go.jp\)](#)

Each delegation that applies for a Japanese visa is kindly requested to send (a) the information listed in the **Attachment 1** and (b) a copy of your passport to the meeting coordinator, Mr. Masahide KANNOU (masahide_kanno210@maff.go.jp) and Japanese meeting arrangement team address (kokusai_kikaku@maff.go.jp), via e-mail by 13th May 2024. Fisheries Agency of Japan will use them to communicate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan so that it can send a formal instruction to the Embassy or Consulate General of Japan for a smooth issuance of your visa.

Should you need a letter of invitation, letter of guarantee, and/or list of visa applicants etc. from the host country, please inform so when you send aforementioned email to the meeting coordinator.

Climate

In July, Kushiro generally has pleasant temperatures and high rainfall. July is a summer month. Daytime temperatures hover around 19°C, while nights can cool down to about 14°C. Kushiro in July usually receives high rainfall, averaging around 128 mm for the month. Based on our climate data of the past 30 years, about 22 days of rain are anticipated.

Funding for Developing Countries and Territories

According to the decision made by WCPFC9, six small island developing States would be funded for travel to the NC20 meeting including the JWG-08 meeting (3 – 7 July 2023), with priority given to RMI, FSM and Palau. These are in addition to the Cook Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu who are Members of the Northern Committee. Formal nominations for participants to receive this support should be submitted to the Secretariat (Aaron.Nighswander@wcpfc.int) **by 1 June 2023** under the signature of their WCPFC Official Contact for eligible developing countries and participating territories.

The latest travel arrangements for nominees should be finalized, two weeks prior to commencing travel.

Accommodation Options

Refer to the posted [WCPFC Circular 2024/07](#) distributed on 5th of February 2024. As Hokkaido is a popular tourist destination in summer season, earlier travel arrangements are highly recommended.

“Cash Only” Airport Bus between Kushiro Airport and downtown Kushiro

[WCPFC Circular 2024/07](#) contained other travel information, including the availability of airport buses between Kushiro Airport and downtown Kushiro.

[Access | Tancho Kushiro Airport \(transer.com\)](#)

Please note that **the airport bus accepts CASH ONLY (no credit card) but there is no money exchange counter nor ATM cash dispenser at Kushiro Airport.** This means that you need to have Japanese yen before arriving at Kushiro airport. Please be advised to use a money exchange counter or ATM cash dispenser at Tokyo Narita/Haneda Airport or any other international airport you will make a transit.

Attachment 1

Please provide a list which includes the following information for each participant. * Please provide the name as it appears on your passport.	
First Name:	
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	
Sex (F/M):	
Nationality:	
Organization:	
Title:	
Passport Number:	
Passport type (diplomatic, official or general):	
VISA type (official visa or short-term visa):	
Date of Birth:	
Nationality:	
Date of Issue:	
Date of Expiry:	
Passport Issuing Authority:	
Period of Stay in Japan:	
Place of Applying for visas (Embassy or Consulate of Japan):	
Arrival Airport:	
Departure Airport:	
Hotel Name:	
Phone Number (in your home country):	