



**NORTHERN COMMITTEE  
Twentieth Regular Session**

15 – 16 July 2024  
Kushiro, Japan (Hybrid)

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**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA**

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WCPFC-NC20-2023/03 [\(Rev.01\)](#)

**AGENDA ITEM 1      OPENING OF MEETING**

**1.1      Opening of meeting**

The Chair Masanori Miyahara (Japan) will open the Twentieth Regular Session of the Northern Committee (NC20) of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which will be held in Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan, during 15-16 July 2024.

**1.2      Adoption of agenda**

The Chair will introduce the Provisional Agenda, WCPFC-NC20-2024/02. Any other matters raised here can be discussed under Agenda Item [9.3](#) (Other business).

**1.3      Meeting arrangements**

The Chair will outline the schedule of the meeting and introduce the rapporteur for the meeting.

**1.4      Report from ISC and SC**

**1.4.1    Report from ISC**

NC20 will review the report from the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC). The 24<sup>th</sup> ISC plenary meeting was held in Victoria, Canada, during 19-24 June 2024. Key activities of the ISC for 2024 include stock assessments for Pacific bluefin tuna and NP shortfin mako shark, external peer review of WCNPO striped marlin, and incorporation of climate change considerations into scientific activities and management advice.

#### 1.4.2 Report from SC

As the 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the WCPFC Scientific Committee will be held on 14 – 21 August 2024, no report from SC20 will be available at NC20. Therefore, key outcomes from SC20 may be reviewed at a separate NC20 online meeting in September 2024 that would be held if necessary.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE NORTHERN STOCKS**

#### **2.1 Pacific bluefin tuna ([CMM 2023-02](#))**

According to the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*, NC tasks for 2024 include:

- a) Review the compiled members' reports on their implementation of CMM for Pacific bluefin tuna and identify and rectify shortcomings.
- b) Review the results of 2024 benchmark stock assessment for Pacific bluefin tuna and recommend any necessary changes to CMM for Pacific Bluefin Tuna (CMM 2023-02).
- c) Work in the JWG to further develop LRP, TRP and other elements of harvest strategy.
- d) Review an update on progress of MSE from ISC.
- e) If additional information is requested by the ISC from the JWG relevant to the MSE, JWG solicits input from its stakeholders and task itself to address this at JWG10 in 2025, as appropriate.
- f) Develop CDS based on the inputs from members and recommendations of the JWG, and further develop a draft CMM if needed.

In December 2023, the Commission adopted *Conservation and Management Measure for Pacific Bluefin Tuna* ([CMM 2023-02](#)) and also adopted the revised *Harvest Strategy for Pacific Bluefin Tuna Fisheries* ([HS 2023-02](#)).

NC20 will review the outcomes of the JWG-09 meeting and consider any further refinement of the CMM as needed.

#### **2.2 North Pacific albacore ([CMM 2019-03](#))**

According to the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*, NC tasks for 2024 include:

- a) Review the compiled members' reports on their implementation of CMM 2019-03 and identify and rectify shortcomings; and
- b) Further development of harvest strategy including review of exceptional circumstances and information from ISC on translating fishing intensity into management controls as appropriate to complete Task (B)(2). [i.e., Task (B)(2): *continue to work to establish reference points and other elements of harvest strategies, if appropriate based on MSE*].

##### 2.2.1 Reports from CCMs and Observers

NC20 will review the compiled members' reports on catch and effort data based on CMM for NP Albacore and identify any remaining queries and concerns and rectify potential shortcomings.

### 2.2.2 Application of Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery

The ISC conducts stock assessment for North Pacific albacore every three years, and the last assessment was in 2023. In addition, the Commission at WCPFC20 adopted *Harvest Strategy for North Pacific Albacore Fishery* ([HS 2023-01](#)), with an editorial correction clarifying that the Commission is the decision-making body<sup>1</sup>.

NC20 may consider ISC's advice on the following two issues:

- a) After 2023 stock assessment, ISC evaluated the stock status relative to the reference points established under paragraph 2 of the HS 2023-01 (Para 4, HS 2023-01).
- b) The NC requested ISC in 2024 to advise how the fishing intensity should be interpreted to actual management measures under the Harvest Strategy 2023-01 (Para 33, NC19 Summary Report).

In addition, NC20 will also review criteria for identification of exceptional circumstances developed by the ISC (Para 4, HS 2023-01).

### 2.2.3 Review of the CMM for North Pacific Albacore (CMM 2019-03)

NC20 will review the effectiveness of the CMM for NP Albacore, and any proposals, if available, for amending the CMM 2019-03 as appropriate.

## 2.3 North Pacific swordfish ([CMM 2023-03](#))

The objective of NP swordfish in the NC Work Programme is to *“Further develop the harvest strategy consistent with CMM 2022-03, including consideration of a target reference point and associated harvest control rule”*.

NC work programme for 2024 includes:

- a) Consider appropriate amendment to CMM 2023-03.
- b) Consider responses from the ISC to NC requests.
- c) Consider and recommend appropriate TRP and associated HCR.

The Commission at WCPFC20 made the following decisions:

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<sup>1</sup> The last sentence of the HS 2023-01 now reads: *“Based on those reviews and subsequent ISC advice, the [Commission](#) in 2030 and 2033 shall decide on the future of the Harvest Strategy.”*

686. *The Commission adopted the amended Conservation and Management Measure for North Pacific Swordfish (WCPFC20-2023-20, Attachment A) contained at Attachment 9.*
687. *The Commission requested that the Northern Committee consider the deleted preambular paragraph<sup>2</sup> of CMM 2022-02 and the scientific advice at NC20 and provide a further recommendation to the Commission at WCPFC21.*

CMM 2023-03 preamble noted that:

*“... and there is an uncertainty in stock boundary between Western Central North Pacific stock and Eastern Pacific stock that are being reviewed by the ISC toward the stock assessment scheduled in 2023;”*

According to the above Work Programme and requests, NC20 will

- 1) review the results of 2023 stock assessment, including the review of stock boundary between WCNPO and EPO and the issue related to Para 687 of the WCPFC20 Summary Record cited above, for any revision of the current CMM 2023-03,
- 2) further consider the application area of the CMM 2023-03 as needed, and
- 3) further development of harvest strategy for NP swordfish fishery.

NC20 will recommend any revised CMM, if available, and more refined *Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Swordfish Fishery* ([HS 2016-01](#)).

#### 2.3.1 Review of CMM for NP Swordfish (CMM 2023-03)

NC20 will review the results of 2023 stock assessments and CMM 2023-03, including further consideration on requests from WCPFC20, and recommend any revision if available to the Commission, mindful of providing the draft audit points and CMM 2013-06 assessment together with the revised CMM.

#### 2.3.2 Development of a management framework

NC20 will continue to discuss the harvest strategy for the NP swordfish stocks and/or fisheries, including review of interim management objectives, candidate TRPs and associated HCRs for further development of the Harvest Strategy for the North Pacific Swordfish Fishery.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3      CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR OTHER STOCKS**

#### **3.1      North Pacific striped marlin ([CMM 2010-01](#))**

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<sup>2</sup> Deleted preambular paragraph: “Noting that draft Conservation and Management Measures for South Pacific Swordfish to strengthen the existing measure has been under consideration at the Commission, given that its fishing mortality has been at high levels in the last decades; and”

The last stock assessment for North Pacific striped marlin was conducted in 2023. However, considering the high level of uncertainty, a peer review of the stock assessment was proposed to improve the next assessment. The Commission at WCPFC20 endorsed the proposal from ISC23 to have an independent peer review of the WCNPO striped marlin stock assessment in 2024. Three reviewers were selected and the in-person peer review meeting was held in Taipei during 15-19 April 2024.

The Commission at WCPFC20 *“agreed to await the outcome of the peer review with a view to considering potential revisions to CMM 2010-01 at WCPFC21.”*

NC20 may review the outcomes of the ISC’s external peer review of this stocks. In addition, the NC Work Program requested NC20 to review information from ISC that may inform management advice for the rebuilding plan.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4      CLIMATE CHANGE**

As agreed at WCPFC19, Climate Change is a new agenda item for the Northern Committee and NC19 discussed ways to incorporate climate change information and analyses in its work, particularly on considering impacts of climate change on northern stocks. The NC Chair summarised that tasking the ISC would not be sufficient, more research and data collection efforts are necessary, and more financial and human resources should be provided to the ISC.

The Commission provided several climate change decisions, and the following two points can be highlighted for the Northern Committee:

- The Commission requested that the Ecosystem and Climate Indicator Report Card be updated and presented annually to the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
- In developing the Commission’s Climate Change Work Plan, WCPFC20 requested that the co-leads (RMI and the USA) work with members to incorporate ongoing efforts on climate change impact on fisheries from each of the subsidiary bodies and also provide a framework for coordinating Commission-wide work on climate change.

NC20 will consider any impacts of climate change on northern stocks, prioritize climate change information and analyses to incorporate into its work, and consider requests to ISC on approaches how to incorporate climate change impacts into the fisheries management of northern stocks.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5      REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

NC20 may review any information regarding implementation of the regional observer program ([CMM 2018-05](#)) for fishing vessels operating in the area north of 20°N.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6      DATA**

*NC work programme for 2024 includes:*

- a) CCMs participating in the NC submit complete data on fisheries for northern stocks to the Commission; and*
- b) Encourage submission to Commission of Pacific bluefin tuna, North Pacific albacore, North Pacific striped marlin and swordfish data from all CCMs and make available to ISC.*

#### **6.1 Review of the status of data and data gaps for northern stocks**

Based on the NC Work Programme, NC20 will review the progress of data submission and identify and rectify any additional data gaps.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **7.1 ISC**

NC20 will exchange views on further efforts to strengthen the cooperation with ISC.

#### **7.2 IATTC**

NC20 will continue to exchange views on cooperation with IATTC, especially in relation to management measures for Pacific bluefin tuna and North Pacific albacore.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **8.1 Work Programme for 2024-2026**

NC20 will review, and revise as needed, the *Work Programme for the Northern Committee*.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

#### **9.1 [Election of Officers](#)**

[The NC20 will consider the appointment of the Chair and vice-Chair.](#)

#### **9.2 Administrative arrangements for the Committee**

##### **9.2.1 Secretariat functions and costs**

NC20 is invited to review and further consider the operation of the NC Secretariat, and costs related to NC activities.

##### **9.2.2 Rules of Procedure**

Subject to any proposals tabled by CCMs, NC20 will consider the Rules of Procedure for NC.

**9.3 Next meeting**

The date and place for the 21<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the NC will be agreed.

**9.4 Other business**

NC20 will discuss any other business raised under Agenda Item 1.2.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE NORTHERN COMMITTEE**

NC20 will adopt the Summary Report of its 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. It will make every effort to adopt its Summary Report by consensus. If consensus is not reached, the Summary Report will indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the Members on all or any part of the Summary Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting is scheduled to close at 5pm on 16 July 2024.