



## TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

### Third Regular Session

27 September – 02 October 2007  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

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## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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WCPFC-TCC3-2007/15  
30 August 2007

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

### Introduction

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other relevant intergovernmental organizations particularly those with related objectives and which can contribute to the attainment of the objective of the Convention. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are identified as organizations, among others, that the Commission may enter into relationship agreements with for the purposes of collaboration, cooperation, consultation and avoiding duplication.

2. A summary of the status of relations with other organizations has been presented at each meeting of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to date. The reports have included an overview of relations between WCPFC and the following organisations:

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- the Commission for the Conservation for Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),
- the International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC).
- the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC),
- the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),
- the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR),
- the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC),
- the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and.

- On the direction of the Commission, agreements for cooperation, coordination and consultation have been formalized with SPC, CCSBT, ISC and IATTC.

3. In addition to presenting a brief summary of relations with those organisations, this paper provides an update on the status of the development of formal agreements with IOTC, the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCALMR) as requested by the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines and endorsed at the Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa.

### **Existing arrangements**

#### *The Secretariat of the Pacific Community*

4. Based on Article 13 of the Convention, the Secretariat negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community relating to collaboration between the two organizations and the provision of data management and scientific services to the Commission. A draft of this MoU was considered at the First Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC1) and the Second Regular Session of the Commission. The MoU, including details of the financial arrangement to support the MoU, was finalized and signed following the adoption of the budget to support the implementation of the MoU by WCPFC2 (Attachment A). Available financial support for the MoU will be exhausted at 31 December 2007.

5. Agenda Item 9 of the Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee invites the Scientific Committee to adopt a program of work for 2008 and a provisional budget for 2009 and 2010. In considering the program of work, the Scientific Committee is invited to prepare advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to the requirements for scientific services from the SPC-OFP beyond 31 December 2007.

#### *The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna*

6. A copy of the existing MoU between WCPFC and CCSBT, signed following the endorsement of the Second Regular Session of the Commission, 12-16 December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia is presented at Attachment B.

#### *International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC)*

7. A copy of the existing MoU between WCPFC and ISC, signed following the endorsement of the Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa is presented at Attachment C.

#### *The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission*

8. The Final Report of the Preparatory Conference (WCPFC/PrepCon/48) notes that the Seventh Session of the Participatory Conference had decided to “*appoint a small group to work with IATTC to develop guidelines to give full effect to Article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention, with respect to the need to avoid duplication of management measures and to promote consistent management measures throughout the migratory range of stocks that occur in areas covered by the two Conventions*”.

9. The inaugural session of the Commission in December 2004 noted this recommendation, among others at paragraphs 86 and 87 of the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference, but provided no further advice on how the recommendation was to be operationalized.

10. The first regular session of the Scientific Committee recommended consultation, collaboration with IATTC be progressed with the following priorities:

- Exchange of data;
- Shark stock assessments; and
- Collaboration on Pacific-wide stock assessments including through a possible Pacific-wide tagging proposal.

11. Informal Discussions towards the Establishment of the WCPFC Northern Committee held in Tokyo in September 2005 suggested collaboration between IATTC and the Commission on shared interests in the North Pacific be progressed.

12. A draft MoU was considered at the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IATTC at Busan, Korea in late June 2006. A copy of the draft MoU, incorporating comments from the IATTC Meeting (including the advice that the MoU be between the Secretariats rather than the Commissions), was tabled at the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines. Following endorsement of the MoU at the Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa the MoU was signed by representatives of the two Commissions (Attachment D).

13. In addition, Annex 1 of Attachment D presents a summary of the First Consultation between the Secretariat's of IATTC and WCPFC which was held at Cancun, Mexico, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

14. The Scientific Committee is invited to provide comments, advice and recommendations in relation to the relationship between IATTC and WCPFC. The Committee is invited to provide advice and recommendations on the draft Program of Work, appended at Annex 2 of Attachment D. The draft was prepared by the Secretariat's to support initial discussion on areas where the two Commissions may subsequently consider practical actions that may generate mutual benefits for collaboration, cooperation and consultation.

### **Arrangements under development**

#### *The Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency*

15. A draft MoU for the two secretariats is appended at Attachment E. The Scientific Committee is invited to review this draft, refine it as necessary, and forward it to the Technical and Compliance Committee before it is submitted to the Commission for consideration for adoption.

#### *The UN Food and Agriculture Organization*

16. Although arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with FAO have not been formalized, as is provided for at Article 22 of the Convention, relations continue to evolve and strengthen. Consultation and collaboration have involved data issues, particularly in relation to the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS), the Fisheries Information Resource Management System (FIRMS) and the Coordinated Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) [see separate papers reporting on the FIRMS and CWP meetings in early 2007].

*The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources*

17. The Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa endorsed the recommendation of the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines that a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with CCAMLR be negotiated. The attached draft MoU was drafted by the Secretariats of the two organisations and is now being presented to their respective Commissions for review and possible endorsement.

18. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to review the draft MoU at Attachment F and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to its possible adoption.

*The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission*

19. The Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa endorsed the recommendation of the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines that a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with IOTC be negotiated. The attached draft MoU was drafted by the Secretariats of the two organisations and is now being presented to their respective Commissions for review and possible endorsement.

20. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to review the draft MoU at Attachment G and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to its possible adoption.

*The Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP)*

21. The Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa endorsed the recommendation of the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines that a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with ACAP be negotiated. The attached draft MoU was drafted by the Secretariats of the two organisations and is now being presented to their respective Commissions for review and possible endorsement.

22. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to review the draft MoU at Attachment H and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to its possible adoption.

*The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)*

23. The Third Regular Session of the Commission, 11-15 December 2006 at Apia, Samoa endorsed the recommendation of the Second Regular Session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines that a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with SPREP be negotiated. The attached draft MoU was drafted by the Secretariats of the two organisations and is now being presented to their respective Commissions for review and possible endorsement.

24. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to review the draft MoU at Attachment I and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission in relation to its possible adoption.

**Other Organisations**

*The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*

25. Regular dialogue is maintained with the ICCAT directly and through the tuna-RFMO network. There are no developments to report in respect of the development of a formal arrangement for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with ICCAT during 2007.

*Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (t-RFMOs)*

26. The Secretariat is actively engaged in an initiative of the Secretariat's of the regional fisheries management organizations with a principle interest in tuna to promote collaboration, information exchange and consultation ([www.tuna-org.org](http://www.tuna-org.org)). The seventh meeting of the secretariat's of tuna-RFMOs was held at Rome, Italy in March 2007.

*PICES*

27. The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), an intergovernmental scientific organization, was established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. In 2006 and 2007 PICES sent an invitation for WCPFC to participate in its annual meeting that year. The Secretariat responded that funding and staffing constraints prevented participation but that it looked forward to close cooperation in future years.

**Issues for the Technical and Compliance Committee**

28. The Third Regular Session of the Technical and Compliance Committee is invited to provide advice and recommendations concerning relations with the organizations referred to above and other organizations with which mutually beneficial relationships should be explored.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN  
AND  
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission” or “the Commission”) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (hereinafter referred to as “the SPC”):

**Recognising** that the Commission is required to, *inter alia*:

- adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in its Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilisation;
- ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- adopt measures to minimise waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, pollution originating from fishing vessels, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species (hereinafter referred to as non-target species) and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species and promote the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques;
- protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- take measures to prevent or eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of fishery resources;
- collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- establish a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest;

- establish a committee (the Technical and Compliance Committee), that is required to collaborate with the Scientific Committee in providing advice and making recommendations to the Commission on conservation and management measures; and
- establish a committee (the Northern Committee) to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20° parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;

**Noting** also that the Commission:

- may engage the services of scientific experts to provide information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources;
- may enter into administrative and financial arrangements to utilise scientific services for this purpose; and
- in order to carry out its functions in a cost-effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilise the services of existing regional organisations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organisation with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission;

**Recognising** that the SPC, through the work of its Oceanic Fisheries Programme (hereinafter referred to as “the OFP”), seeks to:

- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities in its region of competence have access to high-quality scientific information and advice on the status of, and fishery impacts on, stocks targeted or otherwise impacted by regional oceanic fisheries;
- ensure that regional and national fisheries management authorities within its region of competence have access to accurate and comprehensive scientific data on fisheries targeting the region’s resources of tuna, billfish and other oceanic species including non-target species; and
- improve the understanding of pelagic ecosystems in the western and central Pacific Ocean, with a focus on the western tropical Pacific;

**Noting** also that the OFP, in pursuing these objectives, has, over a long period of time:

- developed and maintained a comprehensive database of catch, effort, size composition and other biological data from the oceanic fisheries of the western and central Pacific Ocean;
- conducted biological and ecological research on the target and non-target species impacted by the fisheries and their ecosystem;
- conducted regular stock assessments and associated analyses for highly migratory stocks of interest;
- provided a forum for the exchange of knowledge of oceanic fisheries in the western and central Pacific Ocean through the precursor to the Scientific Committee, the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish, and thus has an established international and regional network of scientific collaborators; and
- assisted SPC member countries that are also Members of the Commission in the management of oceanic fisheries through the implementation of fishery monitoring and data management systems, the provision of scientific advice and the provision of national capacity building;

**Have agreed as follows:**

### **General Co-operation**

The Commission and the SPC agree to establish and maintain co-operation in respect of matters of common interest to the two organisations. In particular, the Commission and the SPC will:

- i. encourage reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organisation;
- ii. encourage the collaboration of national scientists in the scientific work undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Commission;
- iii. actively and regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest, up to the limits allowed by the information-sharing policies agreed by each organisation's members; and
- iv. consult on a regular basis to enhance co-operation and minimise duplication.

### **Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission by the SPC OFP**

The SPC OFP will provide scientific services, in cooperation with other scientists, as appropriate, including those from Members of the Commission, as agreed and detailed in annual<sup>1</sup> Service Agreements, which shall be considered Annexes to this MOU. Services may include, *inter alia*, the following:

- i. data management services, including, as appropriate, the collection, compilation and dissemination of fisheries data according to agreed principles and procedures established by the Commission, data processing, and database development and maintenance, taking full account of the procedures and policies of both organisations relating to the confidentiality, disclosure and publication of data;
- ii. data summaries and analyses that the Commission may routinely require to carry out its functions;
- iii. other data summaries and analyses that the Commission may require from time to time;
- iv. regional stock assessments of key target and non-target species;
- v. scientific evaluation of potential management options;
- vi. scientific advice in relation to the implementation of the Commission's vessel monitoring system, regional observer programme or other initiatives relating to fishing gear and technology, as appropriate; and
- vii. design and implementation of biological, ecological or stock assessment research programmes requested by the Commission, including collaborative research programmes with other regional fishery management organisations.

### **Provision of Assistance to Commission Members**

In support of Article 30 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, the SPC will provide assistance to its Pacific Island Members to enhance their participation in the work of the Commission.

Assistance may include, *inter alia*:

- i. assistance in monitoring the fishing activities of national fleets and foreign fleets fishing within Pacific Island exclusive economic zones;

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<sup>1</sup> The first such Service Agreement shall cover an 18 month period, from 1 July 2005 to 31 December 2006. Service Agreements shall be annual thereafter.



- ii. assistance in data management, and in particular in satisfying the data reporting obligations to the Commission;
- iii. auditing of national fishery monitoring and data management systems;
- iv. assistance in the interpretation of scientific information being provided to the Commission;
- v. scientific advice for the management of national fisheries consistent with the objectives of the Commission; and
- vi. assistance in the implementation of management measures adopted by the Commission.

### **Financial Support**

The Commission will provide financial support for the provision of scientific services and for the provision of assistance to Commission members as agreed in the Service Agreements. In respect of scientific services, it is recognised that the SPC OFP, through its regular work programme, already undertakes a considerable portion of the scientific work required by the Commission. Initially, it is expected that the Commission will fund only the work required for the provision of scientific services that is additional to the SPC OFP's regular work programme. However, as the Commission's financial base becomes established, the Commission will assume, over a time-frame and according to a formula to be mutually agreed, a greater responsibility for the full range of scientific services provided by the SPC OFP in support of the work of the Commission.

In respect of assistance to Pacific Island Commission Members, such assistance will normally be provided by SPC funding sources, or from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, subject to procedures agreed by the Commission governing the use of that Fund and to the Commission's strategy for capacity building and operationalizing Article 30 of the Convention. Where assistance is to be funded from the Commission's Special Requirements Fund, this shall be included in the Service Agreement. In special circumstances, assistance may also be requested for non-Pacific Island Commission Members. Such assistance will be funded by the Commission (in which case it will be detailed in the Service Agreement) or directly by the countries concerned.

### **General Administrative Arrangements**

- i. This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives of both Parties.
- ii. This MOU may be modified by written consent of the responsible representatives of both Parties. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of such consent.
- iii. If any dispute should arise between the Parties on the operation of this MOU, the Parties will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilising a mutually-acceptable arbiter.
- iv. Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from the MOU. Termination shall be effective on 31 December of the year in which such notice is given, or 90 days following such notice, whichever is later. Upon termination of the MOU, any uncommitted funds provided for scientific services and assistance shall be refunded to the Commission.
- v. A full review of the terms and operation of this MOU and its Annexes will be conducted in concert with the review of the scientific functions of the Commission, to be completed by 30 June 2007, and subsequently every three years.

**Signature**

Signed on behalf of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community:

Andrew Wright  
Executive Director, WCPFC

Lourdes Pangelinan  
Director General, SPC

20 December 2005

**ANNEX I**

**Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community**

**Period Covered by this Agreement**

The period covered by this Agreement is 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008.

**Scientific Services to be Provided**

The scientific services to be provided to the Commission by the SPC OFP during the period of this Agreement are as follows:

Description of Service	Timing
<i>Data management, statistical analyses and related services</i>	
<i>Stock assessment and related analytical services</i>	
<i>Research services</i>	
<i>Other advisory services</i>	

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**Assistance to Commission Members**

The SPC OFP will provide services to its membership to assist them to fulfill their responsibilities as Commission members. These services include assistance in the implementation of fishery monitoring programmes, data management systems and the provision of scientific advice for EEZ-based management. The majority of these services will be provided from existing SPC OFP funding sources.

**Financial Support to be Provided by the Commission**

The financial support to be provided by the Commission to the SPC OFP for the above services and assistance is as follows:

Item	Cost basis	USD
<b>Total Commission funding</b>		

**Schedule for Payments**

The schedule of payments shall be as follows:

31 December 2005 (or before)	USD
31 March 2006 (or before)	USD
30 June 2006 (or before)	USD
30 September 2006 (or before)	USD
31 December 2006 (or before)	USD

**Bank Details for Payments**

Name of Bank: Banque de Nouvelle-Caledonie  
 Address: 25 av Henri Lafleur Victoire, Noumea, New Caledonia  
 Account name : Secretariat General de la Communaute du Pacifique  
 Account Number : 14889 00081 01461716025 31

Andrew Wright  
 Executive Director, WCPFC

Jimmy Rogers  
 Director General, SPC

Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA  
AND  
THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

Recalling that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna;

Further recalling that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

Recognising that under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna CCSBT claims competence over southern bluefin throughout its migratory range;

Recognising further that under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean WCPFC has competence to regulate southern bluefin tuna within its area of jurisdiction as a highly migratory stock;

Noting Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna which requires the CCSBT to collaborate with other inter-governmental organisations which have related objectives to, among other things, obtain the best available information including scientific information to further the attainment of the objective of the Convention and seek to avoid duplication with respect to the work of the other organizations;

Further noting Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which requires the WCPFC to cooperate with other organizations, including specifically, CCSBT, in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

Recalling paragraph 86 (a) of the Final Report of the Preparatory Conference for the Establishment of the Commission for the Conservation of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean of 7 December 2004, which recognises the need to establish an understanding between WCPFC and the CCSBT clarifying that, because CCSBT has competence with respect to southern bluefin tuna throughout its migratory range, the WCPFC recognizes that CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

Desiring to put in place an arrangement to implement Article 12 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean,

The CCSBT and the WCPFC record the following understandings:

(a) that the CCSBT is the appropriate body to develop and implement southern bluefin tuna conservation and management measures;

(b) that the CCSBT will provide a report each year to the WCPFC covering the stock assessment for southern bluefin tuna for that year; and the latest catch data classified by ocean, gear and catching country;

c) that the WCPFC will provide a report to the CCSBT each year detailing the catches of southern bluefin tuna by vessels fishing for highly migratory species within the WCPFC Convention area by flag and gear;

(d) that the CCSBT and the WCPFC agree to:

- exchange data and scientific information on annual basis;
- exchange information on fisheries management on annual basis;
- cooperate in investigations and studies of mutual interest;
- grant permanent reciprocal observer status at meetings; and
- to consider methods of recognising each others conservation and management measures

This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

This MOU does not alter the obligations of members of either body to comply with the management and conservation measures of those bodies.

Revisions to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be made by mutual consent of both the parties, by the issuance of a written notification, signed and dated by both parties, prior to any changes being performed.

Either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.

Signed and duly dated:

**\_\_original signed by\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_

Yoshimi Suenaga

Chairman

Commission for the Convention for the  
Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_original signed by\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_

Glenn Hurry

Chairman

Commission for the Conservation of Highly  
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central  
Pacific Ocean

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

**Memorandum of Understanding between  
The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly  
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean  
and  
The International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species  
in the North Pacific Ocean**

(Adopted December 2005)

Recognizing that, *inter alia*, the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereinafter referred to as “the WCPF Commission”):

- Adopts measures to ensure long-term sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area and promote the objective of their optimum utilization;
- Ensures that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and are designed to maintain or restore stocks at levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States in the Convention Area, particularly small island developing States, and taking into account fishing patterns, the interdependence of stocks and any generally recommended international minimum standards, whether subregional, regional, or global;
- Assesses the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;
- Collects and shares, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities on, *inter alia*, vessel position, catch of target and non-target species and fishing effort, as well as information from national and international research programs;
- Establishes a committee, which shall be called the Northern Committee, to make recommendations on the implementation of such conservation and management measures as may be adopted by the Commission for the area north of the 20 parallel of north latitude and on the formulation of such measures in respect of stocks which occur mostly in this area;
- Enters into administrative and financial arrangements as required to utilize scientific services for the purpose of providing information and advice on the fishery resources covered by its Convention and related matters that may be relevant to the conservation and management of those resources and, in order to carry out its functions in a cost-

effective manner, shall, to the greatest extent possible, utilize the services of existing regional organizations and shall consult, as appropriate, with any other fisheries management, technical or scientific organization with expertise in matters related to the work of the Commission; and

- Establishes a committee (the Scientific Committee) to ensure that the Commission obtains for its consideration the best scientific information available through review of research results, encouraging and promoting cooperation in scientific research and assessing status of target or non-target stocks of interest.

Recognizing that the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “the ISC”):

- Enhances scientific research and cooperation for conservation and rational utilization of the species of tuna and tuna-like fishes which inhabit the North Pacific Ocean during a part or all of their life cycle;
- Creates the scientific groundwork, if at some point in the future, it is decided to create a multilateral regime for the conservation and rational utilization of these species in this region;
- Establishes a central database to support the scientific research of the ISC and continues to consider establishing a permanent Secretariat;
- Establishes subsidiary Working Groups to perform the significant scientific work of the ISC.

The Commission of the WCPFC and the ISC, the participants to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), have therefore reached the following understanding.

#### **Part I: Provision of Scientific Advice**

- The Northern Committee may request from the ISC scientific information and advice regarding fish stocks (generally those stocks occurring mostly north of the 20° parallel of north latitude; see Annex 1) for response prior to each meeting of the Northern Committee. This formal request will be transmitted expeditiously to the ISC. The Commission will, if requested, provide data necessary for the scientific analysis to be conducted by the ISC.
- The ISC will provide requested scientific information and advice in accordance with this MOU one (1) month before the annual meetings of the Northern Committee. ISC will also provide the requested scientific information and advice to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. This scientific information and advice will follow the standard presented in Annex 2 for standard (recurring) requests or as mutually agreed upon for special requests (see also Part III below).

- The ISC will provide its normal Committees and Working Group reports, prepared under the Rules and Procedures for the Conduct of the ISC Committee and Subsidiary Bodies, including relevant background reports, directly to the Northern Committee, the Commission, and the Scientific Committee.
- ISC scientific information and advice will be presented at the annual meeting of the Northern Committee and the Scientific Committee, and may be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the ISC, or a designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups, as appropriate. The participation costs of the ISC Chair, or designate, and advisors from the ISC Working Groups will be borne by the Member Governments of the ISC Chair and Working Group advisors.

## **Part II: Framework for Mutual Cooperation**

Participants to this MOU will:

- Encourage reciprocal consultations and regular contacts on matters of common interest regarding scientific research on highly migratory tuna and tuna-like resources;
- Regularly exchange relevant meeting reports, information, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest; and
- Routinely exchange fishery data, in accordance with the rules and procedures for data confidentiality adopted by each organization, to minimize duplicative data collection efforts and enhance fishery monitoring and stock assessment through the use of common data sources.

The Executive Director of the Commission, or designate, including the Chair of the Northern Committee and Chair of the Scientific Committee, will be invited to observe the plenary meetings of the ISC and its Working Groups. The Chair of the ISC, or designate, will be invited to observe the annual meetings of the Commission and meetings of the Northern Committee and Scientific Committee, as well as other subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The costs of participation will be borne by each Organization respectively.

## **Part III: Finance**

- ISC will provide its normal reports and the reports of its Working Groups, as well as standard (recurring) scientific information and advice, without cost to the Commission.
- The Commission will pay, as mutually decided, costs for special scientific advice requested by the Commission.



**Part IV: General Administrative Arrangements**

- This MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of the responsible representatives in both the Commission and ISC.
- This MOU may be modified by written consent of both Commission and ISC and signed by the responsible representative in each organization. The modified MOU becomes effective upon the date of signature of both the responsible representatives of the Commission and ISC.
- If any dispute should arise between the Commission and ISC on the operation of this MOU, both will make every effort to resolve the dispute themselves, or if necessary, by utilizing a mutually decided arbiter.
- Either Commission or ISC may terminate this MOU by providing 30 days written notice to the other of its intention to withdraw from this MOU. Upon termination of the MOU, any funds provided for special, typically non-recurring, scientific advice shall be refunded to the Commission (see Part III above).
- A full review of the terms and operation of the MOU and its Annexes will be conducted as soon as practicable after the first full 12 months of operation following its signature by the Commission and the ISC and subsequently every three years.

**Part V: Signature**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean:

Signed: original signed  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: original signed  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair  
Commission for the Conservation and  
Management of Highly Migratory Fish  
Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Chair  
International Scientific Committee for  
Tuna and Tuna-like Species  
in the North Pacific Ocean

**Annex 1**

**Provisional list of species and/or stocks in the North Pacific for which the Northern Committee may request standard (recurring) advice from the ISC:**

- North Pacific Albacore
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- Swordfish and other billfishes
- By-catch (fish and non-fish) species

Other species may be added to the list with the mutual written concurrence of the Participants to this MOU.

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## **Annex 2**

### **Standard (recurring) advice required from ISC by the Northern Committee:**

For tuna and tuna-like species that occur primarily in the North Pacific, the ISC will report annually to the Northern Committee of the WCPFC on:

1. Performance of the monitored fisheries
2. Progress in stock assessment research and future needs
3. Status of stocks
4. Advice on conservation measures
  - a. Management measures needed
  - b. Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing measures

Any additional ISC tasks needed to support WCPFC will be delineated in annual service agreements established at the outset of each year and in accordance with Part III.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY  
MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN  
AND  
THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (hereafter IATTC):

**RECOGNISING** that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that the objective of the Antigua Convention for the strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fish stocks covered by that Convention;

**UNDERSTANDING** that both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention have provisions to address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong the same ecosystem as the target species;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IATTC;

**NOTING** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention also provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

**AWARE** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention further calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IATTC and to initiate consultation with the IATTC with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention calls upon the IATTC to cooperate with subregional, regional, and global fishery organizations and arrangements and, as appropriate, establish relevant institutional arrangements such as consultative committees, in agreement with such organizations or arrangements, with the goal of promoting the achievement of the objective of the Antigua Convention;

**NOTING** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention also provides that, where the Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the IATTC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to ensure that the objective of the Antigua Convention is reached;

**AWARE** that Article XXIV of the Antigua Convention further provides that the IATTC shall strive to agree with another organization with an overlapping area on the relevant measures to be taken, such as ensuring the harmonization and compatibility of the conservation and management measures adopted by the IATTC and the other organization, or deciding that the IATTC or the other organization, as appropriate, avoid taking measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by the other organization;

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that there is a geographical area that falls within the purview of both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention;

**AWARE** that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention that migrate through areas that are within the purview of both Conventions;

**DESIROUS** to put into place arrangements and procedures to make possible the cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the Antigua Convention, and to enhance the conservation and management of species which are covered by the two Conventions;

**NOW THEREFORE** the **WCPFC** and the **IATTC** record the following understandings:

## **1. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, cooperation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information, in a manner consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments;
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

## **2. MANNER OF COOPERATION**

**Cooperation between the Secretariats of the WCPFC and the IATTC** shall include:

- i. reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information-sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

### **Consultative Meeting**

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IATTC agree to establish a consultative meeting between the Secretariats to be known as

the WCPFC-IATTC Consultative Meeting. The purpose of the Consultative Meeting will be to review and enhance the cooperation between the WCPFC and the IATTC. The Consultative Meetings shall be open to all interested members of both Commissions and be supported by appropriate staff of both Commissions.

**3. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by mutual consent of both Commissions.

**4. TERMINATION**

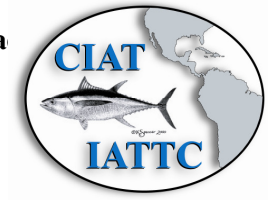
Either Commission may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months' notice of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

**5. SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission:

.....  
Chairman, WCPFC

.....  
Director, IATTC  
Date:



## REPORT OF THE MEETING

### AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Overview of the Memorandum of Understanding
4. Review of areas for collaboration:
  - a. Data and information
  - b. Stock assessment
  - c. Management
5. Other business
6. Date and place of next meeting
7. Adjournment

#### **6. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The first Consultative Meeting between the IATTC and the WCPFC was held in Cancun, on Sunday, 24 June 2007. The meeting was opened by Mr. Brian Hallman, who had been asked by the two secretariats to chair the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to inform members of current and future areas of collaboration needed between the two Commissions and collect comments from participants. The Chairman said the outcome of the meeting would be a report agreed by the Secretariats to the Commissions, and possibly the Secretariats seeking guidance from the Commissions on how to address several matters. The meeting reviewed three documents:

1. MOU between the WCPFC and the IATTC;
2. Draft Program of Work for IATTC-WCPFC collaboration; and
3. Draft agreement on the exchange of data between the IATTC and the WCPFC.

The fourth document that the Secretariats had prepared, draft outline on cooperation in the area of overlap of IATTC and WCPFC, was not introduced because of time constraints.

A request was made by one of the IATTC members that in future all meeting documents be made available in both languages of that Commission. It was also noted that IATTC members would require simultaneous interpretation at the meetings. While the meeting is a meeting between secretariats and not a consultation between the two Commissions the IATTC secretariat acknowledged the importance of the use of its official languages and undertook to provide necessary translation.

Regarding the substantive items in the meeting, Japan stressed that several items in the program of work and the draft agreement on the exchange of data include important policy implications,

which need to be discussed at each Commission to obtain clear guidance before putting them forward to the consultative meeting. Japan therefore reserved its position on all of the issues discussed during this consultation and requested that these matters be referred back to the consideration of the member governments of the Commissions.

## **7. OVERVIEW OF THE MOU**

At the request of the Chairman, Dr Allen reviewed the MOU. It was noted that the collaboration between WCPFC and IATTC is necessary and required. There was a general understanding among participants that the current MOU should be reviewed regularly and modified as necessary.

## **8. REVIEW OF AREAS FOR COLLABORATION**

This item consisted of a review of the program of work Document Cons-1-03.

### **a. Data and information**

#### Exchange of scientific and fisheries data.

Dr. Allen introduced the draft agreement on exchange of data between the IATTC and the WCPFC attached as Annex A, noting that this was a work in progress and was not intended to be presented to the Commissions at this stage. He said there was already an agreement in place between the IATTC and SPC for the exchange of scientific data which could be the basis of scientific exchange between the two Commissions. However, that would have to take account of the information handling policy being developed by the WCPFC.

Dr. Allen noted that there were several matters which would require the attention of the Commissions, in particular, that when a vessel being monitored in one area moves to the other, the other secretariat is notified. In that circumstance, the other Commission could be advised of the date, location, catch of the vessel and operational data of such fishing operation in that Commission's Convention Area.

Several comments and concerns were expressed by members as follows:

- In addition to catch and effort data, size distribution data should also be exchanged.
- Section 1, 3 and Appendix 1 in the Draft agreement on the exchange of data between IATTC and WCPFC may not be necessary.
- The timing of data exchange in conjunction with deadline of data submission from members should be carefully decided so that the most recent data should be used for stock assessment.
- The issue of compliance on data collection and submission in the overlapping zone was raised and an exchange of all data related with stock assessment was noted important.
- Some of the issues in the document were matters of policy for the Commissions and needed to be treated carefully.

#### Mechanism for regular exchange of vessel record

Dr. Allen noted that this point was underway with the collaboration of the secretariats of all the Tuna Commissions which had established the global tuna vessel list ([www.tuna-org.org](http://www.tuna-org.org)) to share vessel record information. Both Secretariats agreed to delete this action item.

#### Exchange of information on IUU fishing

Dr. Allen noted that the Commissions do exchange information on IUU vessel lists, and recommended that the Commissions copy each other on correspondence concerning the development of the lists.

It was noted by one of the member governments that the Commissions should be thinking about, as a long-term goal, the mutual recognition by the two organizations of each other's IUU vessel list. In addition, it was suggested that a combined IUU vessel list across all tuna RFMOs in one table, each column representing each RFMO's IUU vessel list, would be useful. For consistency, it was also suggested that both organizations should adopt similar systems regarding the placement of vessels onto, and removal of vessels from, the IUU lists.

It was noted at the meeting that tasks 1, 3 and 4 in the work program could be combined.

#### Develop Pacific-wide tagging project

Dr. Soh explained the purpose and importance of tagging experiment in tuna science and management. He outlined IATTC and WCPFC tagging project conducted so far and introduced a WCPFC tagging plan for a pan-Pacific project, noting that such program would be quite expensive, perhaps costing up to five million dollars. Dr. Allen observed that the IATTC staff would be participating in meetings associated with this project at WCPFC-SC3 in August 2007 and stressed that it was very important for the two Commissions to seek funding. Several member governments expressed their support for the concept of Pacific-wide tagging of bigeye tuna, yellowfin and skipjack tuna.

#### Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide

Dr. Soh observed that, based on tagging studies to date, the movements of bigeye are geographically restricted. The limited amount of mixing across the Pacific Ocean can create differences in life history characteristics as a function of differences in oceanography and genetic structure. In this regard, Dr. Soh explained that this collaborative research involved a comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology, such as maturity, spawning locations, sex ratios, and fecundity, for bigeye stock assessment. Dr. Allen confirmed that this project was of great interest to IATTC staff and that it would be good to get more information from longline fleets.

#### Pacific-wide bigeye assessments, including model development

Both Secretariats noted that there was ongoing work between the staff of the IATTC and the SPC with respect to bigeye stock assessments.

#### Consider collaborative researches for other tuna-like species (Pacific bluefin, albacore, blue marlin, striped marlin, swordfish)

Dr. Soh explained the collaborative work being undertaken by the SPC with respect to other tuna-like species, and Dr. Allen commented on the IATTC work in this area. The meeting briefly discussed the issue of scientific research on Pacific swordfish, which is of particular interest to member governments. It was noted by one of the member governments that swordfish was a species that could easily be addressed by the two Commissions in a cooperative manner.

#### Sharks (oceanic white tips and silky shark) stock assessments

Dr. Soh noted that IATTC is currently involved in several collaborative research projects on sharks in the Pacific. He highlighted that each Commission should collect detailed data for stock assessment. Dr. Allen observed that shark research is being addressed in the IATTC Stock Assessment Working Group.

#### Ecological risk analysis for by-catch species

Dr. Soh noted that the WCPFC has supported 3-5 year research on Ecological Risk Assessment and its planning workshop will be held in Honolulu, 6-9 August 2007. Dr. Allen commented that IATTC staff would be participating in the workshop for mutual collaboration.



### Pacific-wide Management Strategy Evaluation

Dr. Soh made some brief comments regarding the MSE work being done in these two areas – no specific progress has been done yet.

No specific comments were received during the presentation on science-related work program. Due to lack of time, the other items in the program of work were not discussed during the consultation.

### **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Both Secretariats expressed their understanding that the documents reviewed at this meeting would, as appropriate, be refined, circulated for further comments from members, and then provided to the second Consultative Meeting

### **10. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next consultation would take place during the time of the next meeting of the WCPFC, scheduled for 3-7 December in Pohnpei.

**DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR IATTC/WCPFC COLLABORATION**

<b>TASKS</b>	<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>TIME FRAME / REMARKS</b>
<b>DATA AND INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Exchange of data and information consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a mechanism for the exchange of scientific and fisheries data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish WCPFC-IATTC Agreement on Exchange of Data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretariats develop a draft Agreement, based on IATTC-SPC MOU for June 2007</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a mechanism for regular exchange of vessel record data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review information-sharing policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuna organizations global list is established mechanism for authorized vessels. Note that Kobe POA calls for combined IUU list. Mechanism required for other vessel information.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a mechanism for regular exchange of information on IUU fishing activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine information is exchanged among RFMO secretariats and available on websites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a mechanism for sharing of information during the development of IUU lists.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Secretariat will copy the other on correspondence to members concerning the development of their IUU list, and will provide any information they have on vessels that are being discussed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Pacific-wide tagging project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for tagging project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design the scope and outline of pan-Pacific tagging project</li> <li>• Initiate discussions before and during SC3 on scope and design.</li> <li>• Commission a Proposal on pan-Pacific Tagging</li> </ul>

		<p>Project for a review by the two Commissions by Dec 2007 and June 2008 for consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding options explored by the two Commissions</li> <li>• WCPFC Science Manager and IATTC Chief Scientist in collaboration with SPC-OFP to design program.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinement of bigeye parameters Pacific-wide: A comprehensive review and study of bigeye tuna reproductive biology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify required data fields and research</li> <li>• Design implementation methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate discussions before and during SC3 on scope and design.</li> <li>• WCPFC Science manager to lead.</li> </ul>

<b>STOCK ASSESSMENT</b>		
<b>Collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including Pacific-wide stock assessments</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific-wide bigeye assessments, including model development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data and model availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work between IATTC staff and SPC-OFP.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider collaborative researches for other tuna-like species (Pacific bluefin, albacore, blue marlin, striped marlin, swordfish)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data and model availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider collaborative researches at IATTC SAWG May 2007 and SC3, 2007</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharks (oceanic white tips and silky shark) stock assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Model development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider joint assessments at IATTC SAWG and SC3, 2007</li> </ul>
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>Conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Pacific-wide measures on Pacific bluefin and albacore.</li> <li>• Each Commission to take account of measures to limit bigeye catches on the other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consultation among secretariats about management options being considered by each Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management proposals or draft resolutions that affect conservation of stocks that occur in the other's Agreement area are circulated when they become available.</li> <li>• As required by the Commissions, secretariats to prepare recommendations on</li> </ul>

		harmonization of measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological risk analysis for by-catch species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collection and model development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate discussions before and during ERA Research Plan Development Workshop.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacific-wide Management Strategy Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibly for one species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of proposals by IATTC SAWG and further consideration by SC3 in 2007</li> </ul>
Investigate the potential for harmonizing trade and/or statistical documentation programs and procedures.	Review and report on compatibility of programs and procedures of the two Commissions.	Subject of Kobe Meeting Technical WG.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop protocols for integration of port sampling and observer programmes, and identification of sources of bias in species composition data.</li> <li>In designing the WCPFC's Regional Observer Programme, examine the potential for harmonizing its objectives, coverage rates and data collection standards with those of the IATTC.</li> <li>Examine possibilities for centralization and expansion of observer data collection, initially for longline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a report on the existing or planned observer programmes for the WCPFC and IATTC for discussion at the WCPFC/IATTC Consultative Meeting.</li> </ul>	Provide copy of WCPFC IWG report to IATTC secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In designing the WCPFC's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), investigate the potential for developing compatibility between VMS systems of both Commissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two Secretariats to collaborate to prepare a report of the similarities and differences between the two measures for discussion at the WCPFC/IATTC Consultative Meeting.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues relating to overlap area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a briefing paper concerning the effect of measures (at least capacity) in overlap area.</li> </ul>	IATTC to draft for June 2007 Consultative meeting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hold 1<sup>st</sup> WCPFC/IATTC Consultative Meeting in June 2007</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop agenda including review of work plan</li></ul>	24 June 2007, 1430 hrs.
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## DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**between the Secretariat of  
the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency  
and  
the Secretariat of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission**

The Secretariats of both the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC);

**Recognising** the need to establish a complementary relationship between the two organizations to promote the sustainable use, conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean;

**Recalling** that the function of the FFA as provided for in Article VII of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention is, *inter alia*, to seek to establish working arrangements with relevant regional and international organisations;

**Further recalling** the FFA mission as defined by its Strategic Plan 2005-2020 is to support and enable its members to achieve sustainable fisheries and the highest levels of social and economic benefits in harmony with the broader environment;

**Acknowledging** that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean;

**Acknowledging** the requirement in Article 5 of the WCPF Convention to conserve and manage highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area in their entirety;

**Acknowledging further** the role of the WCPF Commission under Article 10 of the WCPF Convention in establishing conservation and management measures for highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area as a whole;

**Noting** that Article 8.1 of the WCPF Convention requires that conservation and management measures established for the high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction shall be compatible in order to ensure conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in their entirety;

**Recognising** the important role the FFA Secretariat plays in assisting its members to participate effectively in the work of the WCPF Commission, in implementing the obligations of the WCPF Convention and decisions of the WCPF Commission; and in implementing compatible conservation and management measures in the areas under their national jurisdiction as required under Article 8.1 of the WCPF Convention;

**Noting** Article 22.5 of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean which provides for the Commission to enter into relationship agreements with other organizations, including the FFA, with a view to obtaining the best available scientific and other fisheries-related

information to further the attainment of the objectives of the WCPF Convention and to minimise duplication with respect to their work;

*Desiring* to put in place an arrangement to support the implementation of Article VII(e) of the FFA Convention and Article 22 of the WCPF Convention, the FFA and the WCPF Secretariat record the following understandings:

1. In order to maximise the effectiveness of their scientific, compliance and other activities, the FFA Secretariat and the WCPFC Secretariat agree, within the scope of Article 22.5 of the WCPF Convention and Article VI of the FFA Convention, to exchange information relating to their activities and programmes of work on highly migratory fish stocks and associated and dependent species in the Pacific Islands region, subject to arrangements concerning the confidentiality of information held by each organisation on behalf of its members. .
- 2.. The WCPFC and the FFA agree to hold a meeting between the two Secretariats at least once annually at a venue and time that minimises the cost of participation, for the purpose of exchanging information on activities of mutual interest, and to explore ways of minimising duplication of their work.
3. Where necessary, and at the request of either Secretariat, this Memorandum of Understanding may be reviewed and amended. Any such amendment shall take effect upon signature by the Director-General of the FFA and the Executive Director of the WCPFC.
4. Either party may terminate this MOU by giving twelve (12) months' notice in writing.
5. This MOU is effective upon signature by both parties.

Signed and duly dated:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniela Su'a  
Director-General  
Forum Fisheries Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew Wright  
Executive Director  
Commission for the Conservation of Highly  
Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and  
Central Pacific Ocean Ok

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF**  
**HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL**  
**PACIFIC OCEAN**  
**and**  
**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE**  
**LIVING RESOURCES**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CCAMLR);

**NOTING** that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

**NOTING FURTHER** that the objective of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (hereafter CAMLR Convention) is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, which includes rational use;

**NOTING** that Article 22.(2) of the WCPFC Convention specifically calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with CCAMLR and to initiate consultation with CCAMLR with a view to reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

**NOTING FURTHER** that the Preamble to the CAMLR Convention recognises that it is desirable for CCAMLR to establish suitable machinery for recommending, promoting, deciding on and co-ordinating the measures and scientific studies needed to ensure the conservation of Antarctic marine living organisms;

**CONSIDERING that** Article II of the CCAMLR Convention requires that any harvesting and associated activities in the CAMLR Convention Area shall be conducted in accordance with that Convention's provisions and with the specified principles of conservation which include, *inter alia*, maintenance of the ecological relationship between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources;

**NOTING** that provisions of both the WCPF and the CCAMLR Conventions address the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;



**NOTING** further that the both WCPF and CCAMLR Conventions recognize the precautionary approach as a fundamental conservation and management principle;

**RECOGNIZING** that the fulfilment of the objectives of the WCPFC Convention and CCAMLR Convention will benefit from cooperation, with a view to harmonizing the conservation and management measures adopted in respect of stocks and species or stocks of associated species that occur in the areas of competence of both organizations;~~migrate across their shared boundaries~~

**DESIRING** to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation in order to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of stocks and species which are within the competence of both organizations so as to promote harmony and to avoid duplication in, and conflict with, the activities of the two organizations;

**NOW THEREFORE** the WCPFC and CCAMLR record the following understandings:

## **1. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The WCPFC and CCAMLR agree to establish and maintain consultation, co-operation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments; and
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

## **2. MANNER OF COOPERATION**

2.1 Cooperation between the WCPFC and CCAMLR shall include:

- i. reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of processes to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

### **2.2 Consultative Meeting**

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and CCAMLR agree to establish a consultative meeting between the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-CCAMLR Consultative Meeting.

The WCPFC-CCAMLR Consultative Meeting will attempt to meet at least annually in the margins of meetings at which both Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff.

The purpose of the Consultative Meeting will be to review and enhance the cooperation between the WCPFC and CCAMLR.

The Consultative Meeting will be open to all interested members of both Commissions and be supported by appropriate staff of both Commissions.

**3. MODIFICATION, AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by the mutual consent of both Commissions.

**4. TERMINATION**

Either Commission may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months notice in writing of intention to terminate to the other Commission.

**5. SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources:

.....

**Glenn Hurry**  
Chairperson, WCPFC

Date:

.....

Chairperson, CCAMLR

Date:

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY**  
**MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN**  
**and**  
**THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (hereafter IOTC);

**NOTING** that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

**NOTING FURTHER** that the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (hereafter IOTC Agreement) seeks to promote cooperation with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of tuna and tuna-like species and to and encourage the sustainable development of such species within the area of competence of the IOTC;

**CONSIDERING** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations, including the IOTC;

**CONSIDERING FURTHER** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention provides that, where the WCPFC Convention Area overlaps with an area under regulation by another fisheries management organization, the WCPFC shall cooperate with such other organization in order to avoid the duplication of measures in respect of species in that area which are regulated by both organizations;

**NOTING** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention specifically calls upon the WCPFC to cooperate with the IOTC and to initiate consultation with the IOTC with a view of reaching agreement on a consistent set of conservation and management measures, including measures relating to monitoring, control and surveillance, for fish stocks that occur in the Convention Areas of both organizations;

**NOTING FURTHER** that Article XV of the IOTC Agreement calls on the IOTC to cooperate and make appropriate arrangements with other intergovernmental organizations, in particular with any intergovernmental organization or institution dealing with tunas in the area of competence of the IOTC and to seek to promote complementarity and to avoid duplication and conflict;

**BEARING IN MIND** that there is an overlap of the geographical area that falls within the area of competence of both the WCPFC the IOTC;

**CONSCIOUS** that some members of the WCPFC and the IOTC are members of both organizations;

**AWARE** that there are stocks and species covered by both the WCPFC Convention and the IOTC Agreement that migrate through areas of competence of both organizations;

**DESIRING** to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation called for by the WCPFC Convention and the IOTC Agreement in order to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of species which are within the competence of both organizations

**DESIRING FURTHER** to promote complementarity and to avoid duplication in and conflict in the activities of the two organizations;

**NOW THEREFORE** the WCPFC and the IOTC record the following understandings:

## **1. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The WCPFC and the IOTC agree to establish and maintain consultation, co-operation and collaboration in respect to matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- i. exchange of data and information consistent with the information-sharing policies of each Commission;
- ii. collaboration on research efforts relating to stocks and species of mutual interest, including stock assessments; and
- iii. conservation and management measures for stocks and species of mutual interest.

## **2. MANNER OF COOPERATION**

2.1 Cooperation between the WCPFC and the IOTC shall include;

- i. reciprocal participation as observers in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies;
- ii. information sharing about stocks and species of mutual interest;
- iii. development of process to promote harmonization and compatibility of conservation and management measures as relevant, including measures relating to monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; and
- iv. active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest.

### **2.2 Consultative Meeting of Secretariats**

To facilitate the effective development and implementation of cooperative measures, the WCPFC and the IOTC agree to establish an annual consultative meeting of the Secretariats to be known as the WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting.

The WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting will attempt to meet in the margins of meetings at which both Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff as determined by the Executive Secretaries.

A report of the each WCPFC-IOTC Consultative Meeting will be circulated to members of both Commissions.

## **3. MODIFICATIONS, AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by the mutual consent of both Commissions.

#### **4. TERMINATION**

Either organization may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months notice of intentions to terminate to the other organization.

#### **ARTICLE 5: SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission:

**Glenn Hurry**

Chairman, WCPFC

Date:

Chairman, IOTC

Date:

**DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**between**  
**THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**and**  
**THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND**  
**PETRELS**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (hereafter the ACAP);

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that *The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* (hereafter ACAP), developed under the auspices of the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*, is a multilateral agreement which seeks to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to albatross and petrel populations.

**NOTING** that Article X(d) of ACAP authorizes the ACAP Secretariat to liaise with non-Party Range States and regional economic integration organisations and to facilitate coordination between Parties and non-Party Range States, and international and national organisations and institutions whose activities are directly or indirectly relevant to the conservation, including the protection and management, of albatrosses and petrels;

**NOTING FURTHER** that Article XI of ACAP empowers the ACAP Secretariat to consult and cooperate, where appropriate, with the secretariats of other relevant conventions and international instruments in respect of matters of common interest and to enter into arrangements, with the approval of the Meeting of Parties, with other organisations and institutions as may be appropriate and to consult and cooperate with such organisations and institutions in exchanging information and data;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPF Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

**ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER** that the WCPFC Convention also makes provisions for the conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species, including albatrosses and petrels;

**CONSCIOUS** that some members of the WCPFC are Parties to ACAP;

**NOTING** that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations;

**RECOGNIZING** that the achievement of the objectives of the WCPFC Convention and ACAP will benefit from cooperation, with a view to harmonising the conservation measures adopted in respect of albatrosses and petrels;

**DESIRING** to put into place arrangements and procedures to promote cooperation in order to enhance the conservation of albatrosses and petrels;

**NOW THEREFORE** the WCPFC and ACAP record the following understandings:

### **1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS AGREEMENT**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate cooperation between the WCPFC and ACAP with a view to supporting efforts to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels within the WCPFC Convention Area.

### **2. AREAS OF COOPERATION**

The WCPFC and ACAP may establish and maintain consultation, co-operation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organisations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- a) development of systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information concerning the incidental by-catch of seabirds in the WCPFC Convention Area;
- b) exchange of information regarding management approaches relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels;
- c) implementation of education and awareness programmes for fishers who operate in areas where albatrosses and petrels may be encountered;
- d) design, testing and implementation of seabird by-catch mitigation measures relevant to fishing operations in the WCPFC Convention Area;
- e) development of training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate threats affecting albatrosses and petrels; and
- f) exchange of expertise, techniques and knowledge relevant to the conservation of albatrosses and petrels in the WCPFC Convention Area and
- g) reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organisation.

### **3. REVIEW, MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modification and amendment by the mutual consent of both organisations.

### **3. LEGAL STATUS**

The parties acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding between them.

#### **4. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the signatures of the Chair of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Chair of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Either organisation may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months notice of intention to terminate to the other organisation.

#### **ARTICLE 5: SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

\_\_\_\_\_/ /  
Chair  
WCPFC

\_\_\_\_\_/ /  
Chair  
ACAP



**DRAFT**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**Between**  
**THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**and**  
**THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT**  
**PROGRAMME**

**PREAMBLE**

The Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (hereafter SPREP);

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (hereafter the SPREP Convention) as an intergovernmental organisation, seeks to promote co-operation in the South Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations;

TAKING NOTE of Article 2 of the SPREP Convention which requires SPREP to co-ordinate regional activities addressing the environment; monitor and assess the state of the environment in the region including the impacts of human activities on the ecosystems of the region and encourage; promote and develop programmes, including research programmes, to among other things, protect coastal and marine ecosystems and species, while ensuring ecologically sustainable utilisation of resources; strengthen national and regional capabilities and institutional arrangements; increase and improve training, educational and public awareness activities; and promote integrated legal, planning and management mechanisms;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific, done at Apia on 12 June 1976, is to achieve the conservation, utilization and development of the resources of South Pacific region, including marine living resources, through careful planning and management for the benefit of present and future generations;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related Protocols, done at Noumea, on 24 November 1986 is aimed at the protection of the environment of the South Pacific region, including the marine environment and the harmonization of policies at the regional level;

TAKING NOTE of the various Action Plans and Strategies developed by SPREP to achieve its objectives, including the Avifauna Conservation Strategy for the Pacific Region, 2000, the marine species programme framework 2003-2007 including the Marine Turtle Action Plan, 2003 – 2007, the Whale and Dolphin Action Plan, 2003 – 2007, the Strategic Action Programme for the International Waters of Pacific Small Island Developing States, 1997, and, in association with other organisations in the Pacific Islands region, the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy (2002) and Framework for Integrated Strategic Action.

ACKNOWLEDGING that the objective of the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (hereafter WCPFC Convention) is to ensure, through effective management, the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific ocean;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that the WCPFC Convention also requires the adoption of measures and policies to protect and conserve marine biodiversity, including conservation of non-target, associated or dependent species which belong to the same ecosystem as the target species;

NOTING that Article 22 of the WCPFC Convention calls upon the WCPFC to make suitable arrangements for consultation, cooperation and collaboration with other relevant organizations;

NOTING FURTHER that Article 7 of the SPREP Convention requires the SPREP Secretariat to co-ordinate and establish working arrangements with relevant national, regional and international organisations;

RECOGNISING the areas of shared responsibility and membership of the WCPFC and SPREP and the desirability of co-operation between the WCPFC and SPREP in order to ensure coordination and co-operation in efforts to protect marine biodiversity and the long term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources in the Pacific Islands region;

NOW THEREFORE the WCPFC and SPREP  
(the Parties) record the following understandings:

## **1. OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate cooperation between the Parties with a view to protecting the marine environment of the Pacific Islands region, in particular, the development and implementation of ecosystem principles and measures and the conservation of marine biodiversity, including conservation of endangered marine ecosystems, marine species and seabirds;

## **2. MANNER OF COOPERATION**

The Parties agree to establish and maintain consultation, co-operation and collaboration in respect of matters of common interest to the two organizations, including, but not limited to, the following areas:

- a) development of systems for collecting and analysing data, and exchanging information concerning the incidental by catch of seabirds in the Pacific Islands Region;
- b) exchange of information regarding marine biodiversity and ecosystem management approaches;
- c) design and implementation of mitigation measures relevant to fishing operations in the Pacific Islands Region;
- e) development of training programmes on conservation techniques and measures to mitigate the impact of fishing for target species on dependent and associated species in the Pacific Islands Region;
- f) active and regular exchange of relevant meeting reports, information, research data and results, project plans, documents, and publications regarding matters of mutual interest;
- g) reciprocal participation in relevant meetings of each organization, including those of each organization's subsidiary bodies, and
- i) raising awareness among each organization's constituents and stakeholders of the work of the other organization in respect of matters of mutual interest.

### **3. REVIEW, MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified or amended by the mutual consent in writing of both Parties.

### **4. LEGAL STATUS**

The Parties acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding between them.

### **5. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the signatures of the authorised representative of each Party. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving six months notice of intention to terminate to the other Party.

### **6. SIGNATURE**

Signed on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

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Glenn Hurry  
Chairman, WCPFC  
Date:

.....

Asterio Takesy  
Director, SPREP  
Date: