



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

Manila, Philippines  
14 – 21 August 2024

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**Cooperation with Other Organizations**

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**WCPFC-SC20-2024/GN-IP-03**

**Submitted by the Secretariat**

**Introduction**

1. Article 22 of the Convention requires the Commission to collaborate with other intergovernmental organizations which may contribute to attaining the objective of the Convention. The WCPFC maintains formal relations with eleven inter-governmental institutions and agencies, including other regional fisheries management organisations, and one more MOU is under the signing process. The broad objectives of these relationships are to promote cooperation and collaboration in areas of mutual interest. The Commission has relations with the organisations listed below, and the agreements with each of these organizations can be found at [Relations with Other Organisations](#) under the WCPFC Key Documents webpage.
  - a. The Pacific Community in respect of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC-OFP);
  - b. Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
  - c. International Scientific Committee for Tunas and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC);
  - d. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
  - e. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC);
  - f. Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC);
  - g. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
  - h. Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT);
  - i. Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP);
  - j. North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC); and

- k. South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).

## **Existing Arrangements**

### ***The Pacific Community (SPC)***

2. The WCPFC and SPC-OFP data exchange agreement was adopted in 2009.
3. An MOU between WCPFC and SPC was signed in December 2005 for 2006 scientific services, updating the specific services annually. In 2016, the three-year MOU was revised, highlighting the development of management strategy evaluation to support the implementation of the Commission's harvest strategy framework. In 2019, the three-year MOU was revised, with the terminology of 'MOU' being replaced by the 'Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)'. The *Agreement for the Provision of Scientific Services to the Commission and Assistance to Members by the Pacific Community* (ANNEX 1) for 2024 was entirely signed by both parties on 1 March 2024.

### ***Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)***

4. As directed by the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission, an MOU between the two Secretariats was finalized.
5. There is also a *Service Level Agreement (SLA)* between the FFA and the Commission for VMS services consistent with paragraph 5 of Article 15 of the Convention.

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

6. The Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005 adopted an MOU with ISC.

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

7. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with SPREP.

### ***Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)***

8. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with IOTC.

### ***Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)***

9. An MOU was executed by representatives of the IATTC and WCPFC following its endorsement by WCPFC3 at Apia, Samoa, in December 2006.
10. In December 2009, the two Commissions signed a *Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data* at the end of WCPFC6 at Papeete, French Polynesia.

11. A *Memorandum of Cooperation on the Cross Endorsement of Regional Observers between WCPFC and IATTC* was signed at the IATTC meeting in La Jolla, USA, in July 2011.<sup>1</sup>
12. At WCPFC20, there was strong support for strengthening collaboration between the two RFMOs to enhance the effectiveness of conservation and management efforts in the region. WCPFC further tasked its Secretariat with strengthening its relations with the IATTC to foster closer cooperation and enhance cross-RFMO coordination in developing the MSE and management procedures for the South Pacific albacore fishery.
13. In July 2024, a 4-hour virtual conference was held between the two Secretariats to review and enhance cooperation on about 15 issues. Regarding the management of South Pacific albacore, the IATTC acknowledged the WCPFC Commission's invitation to attend the virtual WCPFC SMD-02. The Secretariats also discussed the opportunities to collaborate on CKMR analysis, assist in the development of a harvest strategy framework, and explore the potential for a joint working group to establish harmonized and compatible measures for the South Pacific albacore fisheries.

#### ***Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)***

14. WCPFC5 adopted an Arrangement with CCAMLR. The Arrangement was signed by the Chair of CCAMLR on 12 January 2009 and remained in effect for three (3) years. On 10 March 2013, the Arrangement was renewed by removing the specific effective period and signed by the Chairs of both organizations.

#### ***Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)***

15. An MOU between CCSBT and WCPFC was signed following the endorsement of the Second Regular Session of the Commission in December 2005 at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.
16. WCPFC13 and CCSBT agreed to a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Exchange and Release of Data between WCPFC and CCSBT and a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Endorsement of WCPFC ROP Observers for Observing Transshipments of Southern Bluefin Tuna on the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area with CCSBT. The signing of these two memoranda was concluded on 5 June 2017.

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

17. The Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in December 2007 adopted an MOU with ACAP.

#### ***North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)***

18. The two Secretariats developed an MOU, which was approved by WCPFC06 at Papeete, French Polynesia, in December 2009 and signed in December 2010.

#### ***South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (SPRFMO)***

19. The signing of an MOU between the SPRFMO and the WCPFC was finalized on 6 August 2020. The objective of the MOU is to facilitate cooperation between the two Organizations to advance their

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment Q, [WCPFC7 Summary Report](#).

respective objectives, particularly concerning stocks or species that are within the competence or mutual interest of both Organizations.

20. This MOU was renewed following approval from both Commissions with the removal of a term limit to the MOU. The Chairs of each organisation signed the renewed MOU on 22 May 2024.

#### ***North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)***

21. NPFC is an intergovernmental organization established to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in its Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur. Fisheries resources covered by the Convention are all fish, mollusks, crustaceans, and other marine species caught by fishing vessels within its Convention Area, excluding (i) sedentary species insofar as they are subject to the sovereign rights of coastal States and indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems as listed in, or adopted according to the NPFC Convention; (ii) catadromous species; (iii) marine mammals, marine reptiles and seabirds; and (iv) other marine species already covered by pre-existing international fisheries management instruments within the area of competence of such instruments. The WCPF Commission, at the WCPFC20 meeting in December 2023, approved the signature of the MOU with NPFC, and the NPF Commission, at its 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in April 2024, adopted the MOU. The MOU is under the signing process.

#### **Other Arrangements**

#### ***UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)***

22. With SPC, WCPFC has continuously cooperated with CWP as a Member since 2008. The CWP meets approximately every three years. The objectives of the CWP are to (a) keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics for research, policymaking, and management; (b) agree on standard concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics; and (c) make proposals and recommendations for action concerning the collection, collation, and dissemination of fishery statistics.

#### ***North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)***

23. PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine research in the northern North Pacific and adjacent seas. Its present members are Canada, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America. PICES continues to send an invitation letter to the Secretariat to attend the PICES Annual Meeting, and the 2024 PICES meeting will be held in Honolulu, USA, from October 26 – 1 November 2024